DEAR BOYS

MINARI ENDOH

10

TOKYOPOP

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遠藤海成

MINARU ENDO

DAZZLE™

Vol. 10

Minari Endoh

TOKYOPOP®

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Contents

Intermission: So Will You Please Hold My Hand Tonight? 9

Chapter 69: Back to the Routine—Part 3:
The Ordinary Everyday 19

Chapter 70: Back to the Routine—Part 4:
The Destroyer Cometh 43

Chapter 71: Back to the Routine—Part 5:
"A Fake of A Fake" 65

Chapter 72: Back to the Routine—Part 6:
Yet Another Sideshow 87

Chapter 73: Back to the Routine—Part 7:
Moonlight! Shine upon This Miserable Child 109

Chapter 74: Carnival—Part 1:
Somebody's Truth 132

Chapter 75: Carnival—Part 2:
The Sun Won't Rise 139

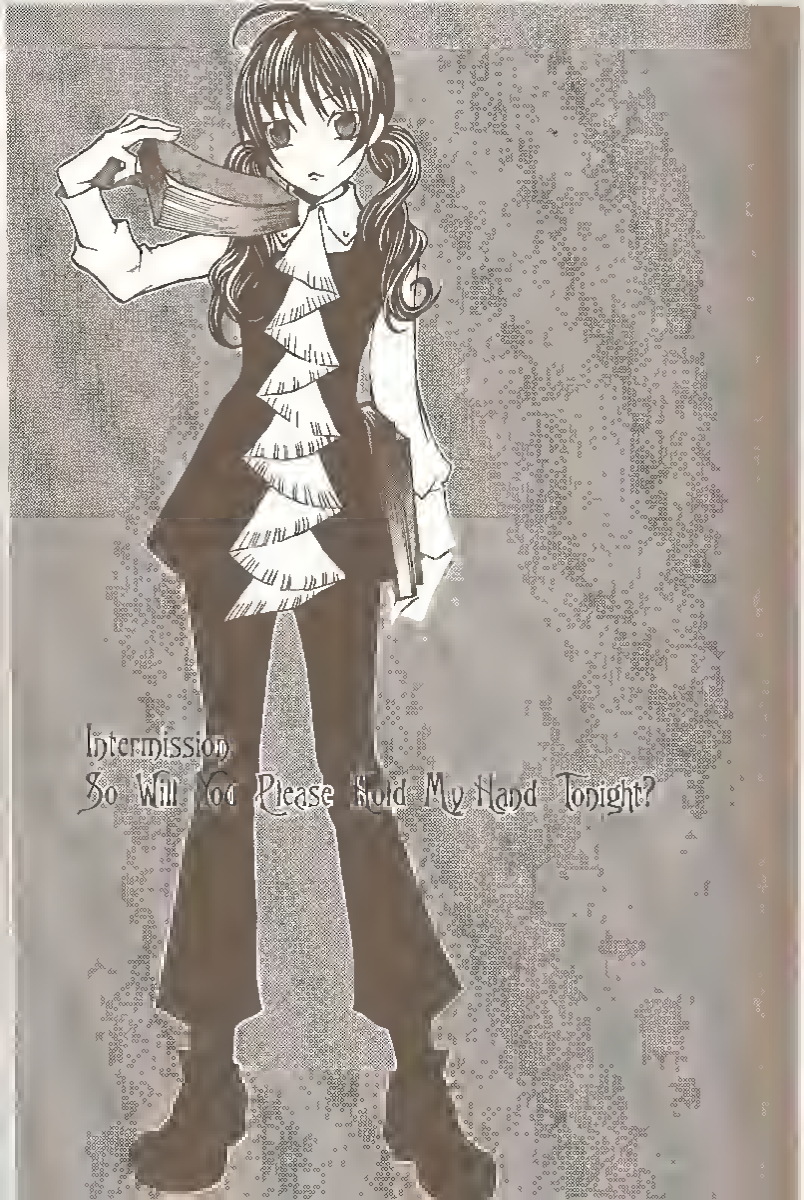
Intermission: The Stars Sparkle on an Endless Night 175

Story So Far

Rahzel's adoptive father Serateed sent her on a traveling journey to hone her magical abilities, but now that he's discovered his younger brother Kiara has entangled Rahzel in a sinister plot of unknown ends, Serateed has brought her back home. He's reluctantly also taken in the two traveling companions with whom Rahzel has formed a special bond, his playboy youngest brother Baroqueheat and the albino mage user Alzeid, the clone of Serateed's oldest friend, a scientist named Second.

Alzeid has been searching for the woman who killed his "father" ten years ago, but his description of her matches the woman who Second shockingly murdered years before. Alzeid was born Natsume, the woman who Serateed and his siblings adored by turns as a sister, as a mother, or as the lover they could never have. Natsume's death at the hands of her lover Second destroyed her family, and each sibling dealt with it in their own way. Kiara's way being the most dangerous of all.
Alzeid was not the only clone who Second made. His first try was Alzeid's older brother, a "failed" clone also called Alzeid who had no powers and who never aged. But now that clone does Kiara's bidding, his powers somehow unlocked in a simpleminded psychopathy that strikes fear in all who have seen his horrific attacks, including Rahzel who he calls "big sister" for some reason. When Alzeid fought his brother for the first time, he realized he was sorely outmatched.

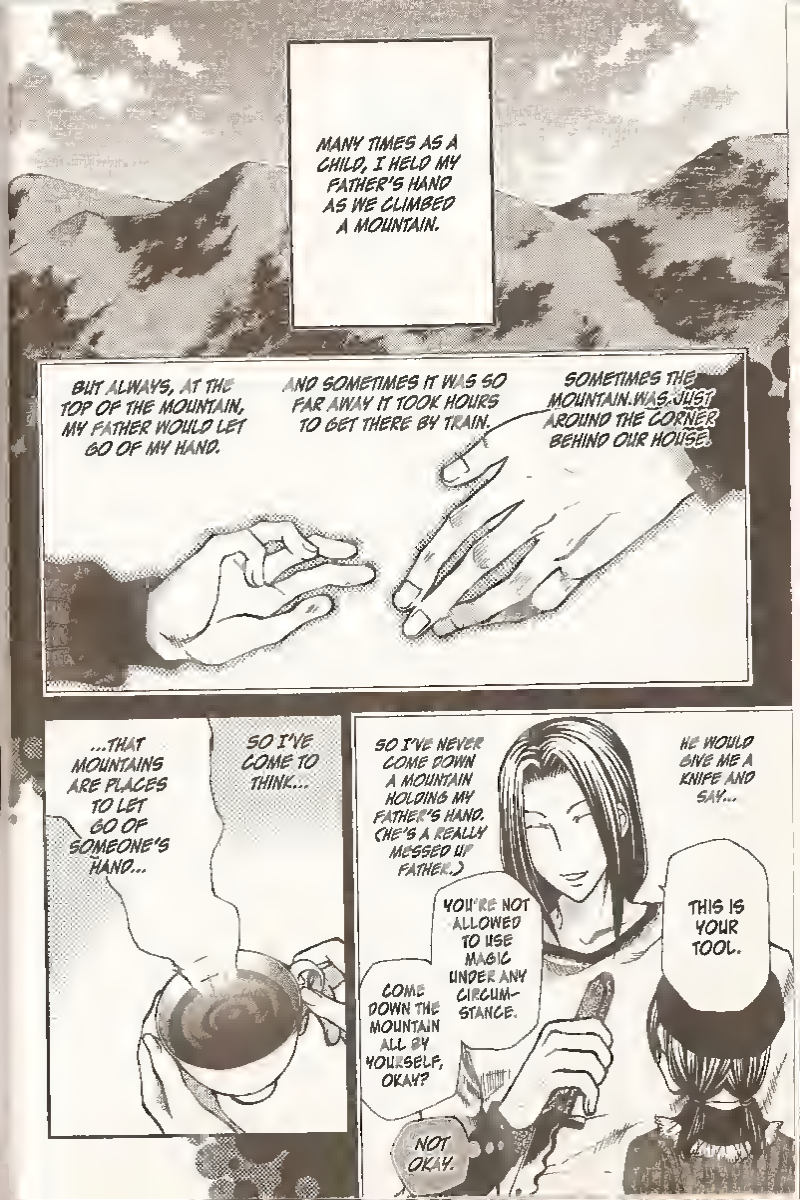
Also in Rahzel's town are visitors from the town of Prometheus which Natsume and Second founded including the capricious Shogetsu, the clone girls Befyladita and Salasaneta, and the scissor-wielding Fay Lisette. They too showed Alzeid his woeful lack of fighting skill, and even Rahzel herself learned so much in her months on the road that she was able to defeat Alzeid in a duel. As Alzeid wallows in self-pity, and Serateed worries about what plans Kiara might have for his daughter, Rahzel now faces a perennial challenge: the start of a new school year.



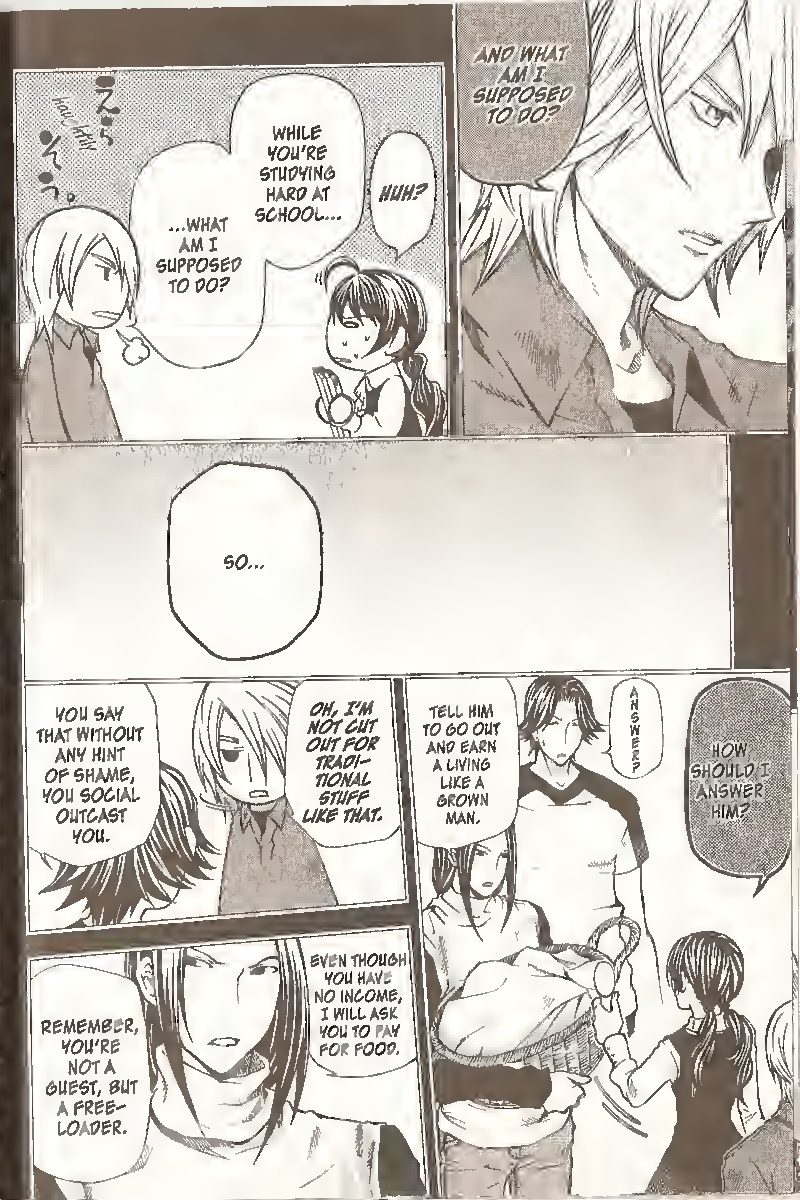
Intermission

So Will You Please Hold My Hand Tonight?

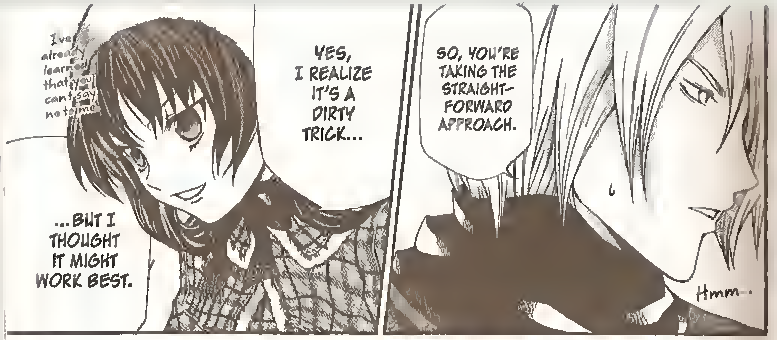
THE NEW TRIMESTER STARTS TOMORROW.
UH-HUH.
SCHOOL?
...TO BE ALONE AND BE DEPRESSED...
...OR TO FIGHT SOMETHING.
IT'S COLD.
spring's almost here
ARE YOU GOING?
MINE.
WHOSE SCHOOL?
WELL, YES.

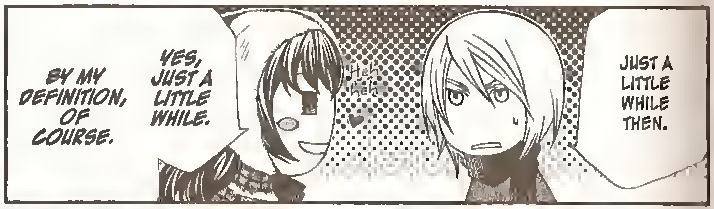

MANY TIMES AS A CHILD, I HELD MY FATHER'S HAND AS WE CLIMBED A MOUNTAIN.
BUT ALWAYS, AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN, MY FATHER WOULD LET GO OF MY HAND.
AND SOMETIMES IT WAS SO FAR AWAY IT TOOK HOURS TO GET THERE BY TRAIN.
SOMETIMES THE MOUNTAIN WAS JUST AROUND THE CORNER BEHIND OUR HOUSE.
...THAT MOUNTAINS ARE PLACES TO LET GO OF SOMEONE'S HAND...
SO I'VE COME TO THINK...
SO I'VE NEVER COME DOWN A MOUNTAIN HOLDING MY FATHER'S HAND. (HE'S A REALLY MESSED UP FATHER.)
HE WOULD GIVE ME A KNIFE AND SAY...
THIS IS YOUR TOOL.
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO USE MAGIC UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.
COME DOWN THE MOUNTAIN ALL BY YOURSELF, OKAY?
NOT OKAY.

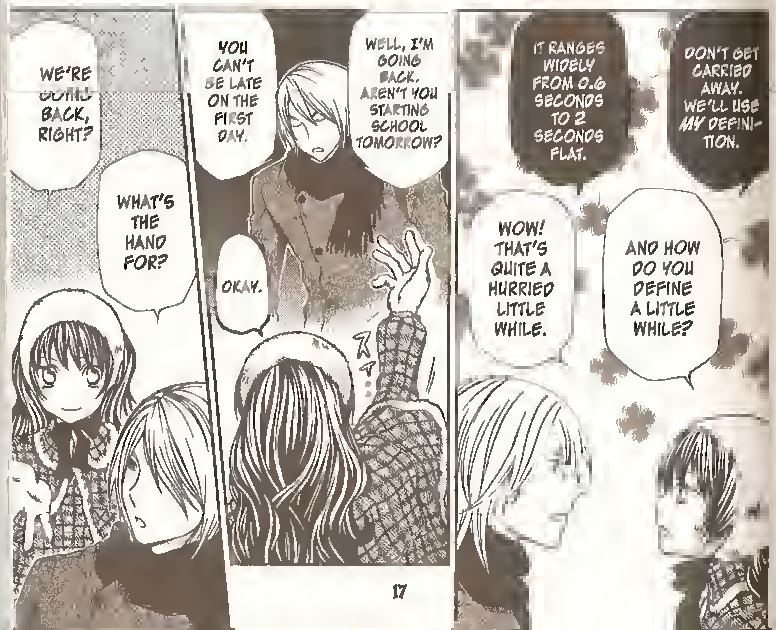
I DON'T WANT OUR FAMILY'S REPUTATION TO BE TARNISHED BY CRIMINAL MATTERS.
OH, BUT PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING ILLEGAL.
Ugh...
dezm
ぼー
dezm
ぼー
NO! I MEAN, WHY IS YOUR MEAL SO DIFFERENT FROM MINE?!!
ARE YOU SO UPSET THAT I CAN'T PAY FOR FOOD?!!
It's not something you can say with pride, is it?
IT'S A STEAMED CARROT. CAN'T YOU TELL?
STEAMING TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE CARROT'S NATURAL FLAVOR.
WHAT IS THIS?

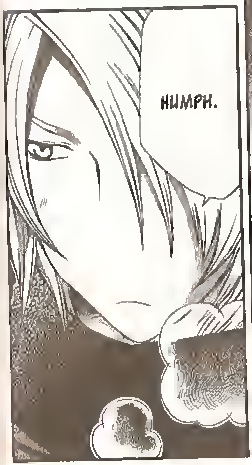

AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
HUH?
WHILE YOU'RE STUDYING HARD AT SCHOOL...
...WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
Hau-hau
SO...
OH, I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR TRADITIONAL STUFF LIKE THAT.
YOU SAY THAT WITHOUT ANY HINT OF SHAME, YOU SOCIAL OUTCAST YOU.
EVEN THOUGH YOU HAVE NO INCOME, I WILL ASK YOU TO PAY FOR FOOD.
REMEMBER, YOU'RE NOT A GUEST, BUT A FREELOADER.
HOW SHOULD I ANSWER HIM?
ANSWER?
TELL HIM TO GO OUT AND EARN A LIVING LIKE A GROWN MAN.

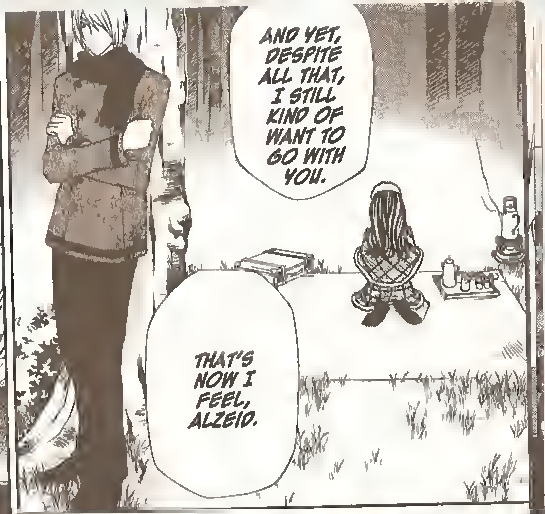
I DO...
... REMEMBER.
I KNOW. I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.
...TO LET YOU GO ON THE ROAD AGAIN.
I'M JUST WAITING WHILE YOU CONVINCE SERA...
I CAN'T HELP IT.
I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN.
IT'S A LIE.
...AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO GRADUATE IF I MISS TOO MUCH...
...AND I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL...
I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME IN MONTHS...
...AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, I CAN LIVE WITH MY FATHER.
...AND I HAVE FRIENDS HERE...
...AND I LIKE THIS TOWN...
TH-THEN WHY?!
BAROQUE-NEAT DOESN'T PAY FOR FOOD EITHER.
I'M HURT. I WOULDN'T LET SOMETHING LIKE THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
Brutally
honest
LET'S JUST SAY...
...IT'S JUST BECAUSE I HATE YOU.
I'M NOT HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO BE.
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN, RAHZEL?
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MEAT, SPOT?
I DON'T WANT YOUR CHARITY!
SPOT
HE KNOWS!!
BESIDES, YOU BROKE THE WALL IN THE ATTIC.
Eeep!

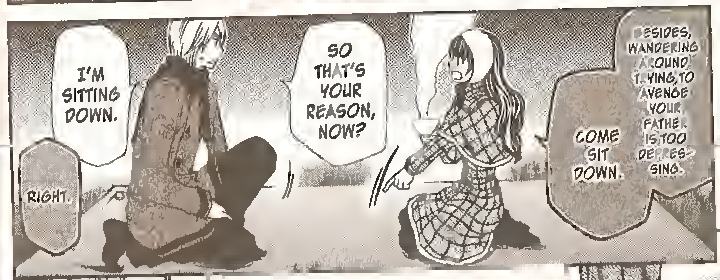

I've already learned that you can't say no to him.
...BUT I THOUGHT IT MIGHT WORK BEST.
YES, I REALIZE IT'S A DIRTY TRICK...
SO, YOU'RE TAKING THE STRAIGHT-FORWARD APPROACH.
Hmm...

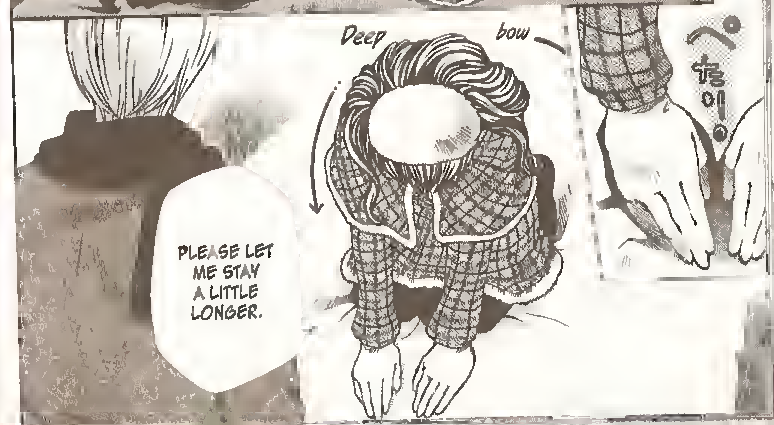

BY MY DEFINITION, OF COURSE.
YES, JUST A LITTLE WHILE.
Heh heh
JUST A LITTLE WHILE THEN.


WE'RE GOING BACK, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THE HAND FOR?
YOU CAN'T BE LATE ON THE FIRST DAY.
WELL, I'M GOING BACK. AREN'T YOU STARTING SCHOOL TOMORROW?
OKAY.
IT RANGES WIDELY FROM 0.6 SECONDS TO 2 SECONDS FLAT.
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY. WE'LL USE MY DEFINITION.
WOW! THAT'S QUITE A HURRIED LITTLE WHILE.
AND HOW DO YOU DEFINE A LITTLE WHILE?


HUMPH.

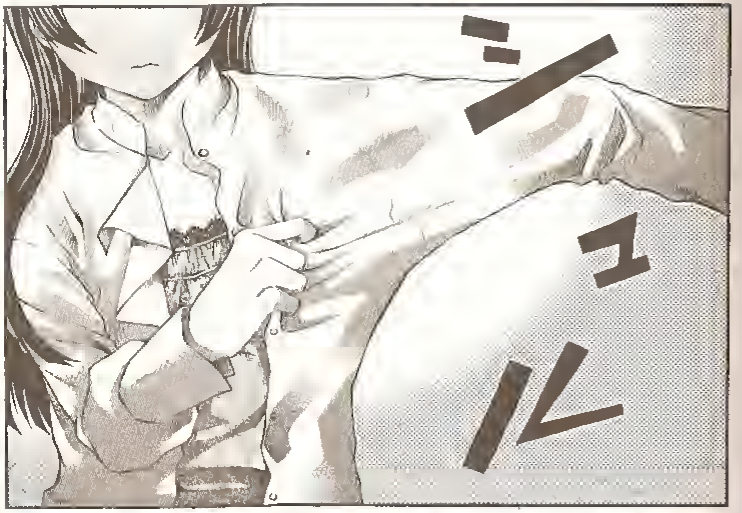

AND YET, DESPITE ALL THAT, I STILL KIND OF WANT TO GO WITH YOU.
THAT'S NOW I FEEL, ALZEID.

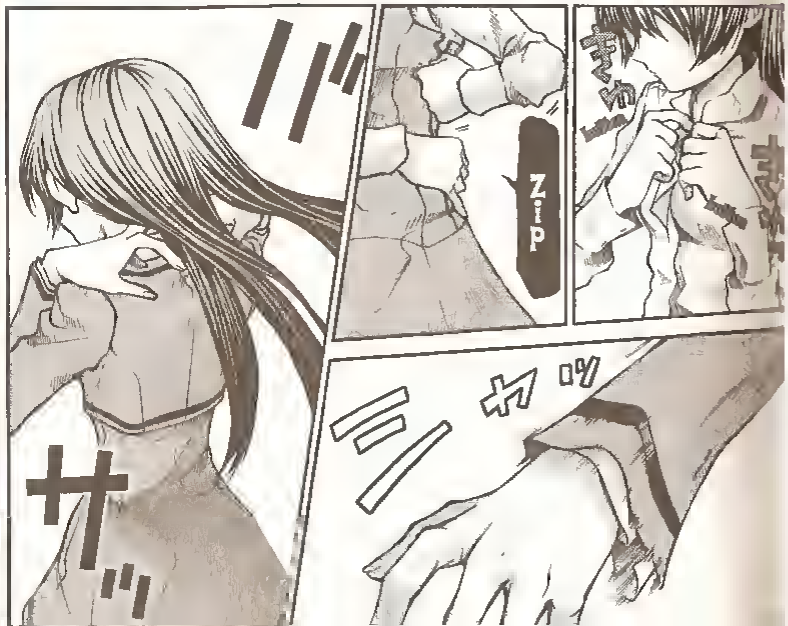

I'M SITTING DOWN.
RIGHT.
SO THAT'S YOUR REASON, NOW?
COME SIT DOWN.
BESIDES, WANDERING AROUND TRYING TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER IS TOO DEPRESSING.


PLEASE LET ME STAY A LITTLE LONGER.
Deep bow
Yes!

Chapter 69: Back to the Routine Part 3: The Ordinary Everyday

YOU WANNA GO DOWN HOLDING HANDS?
YES, HOLDING HANDS.
I'D THINK IT'D BE PRETTY COLD.
I'LL PASS.
IT'S NICE. IT'LL BE WARM TOO.
THIS REALLY MAKES IT HARD TO MOVE AROUND ON A MOUNTAIN TRAIL, YOU KNOW.

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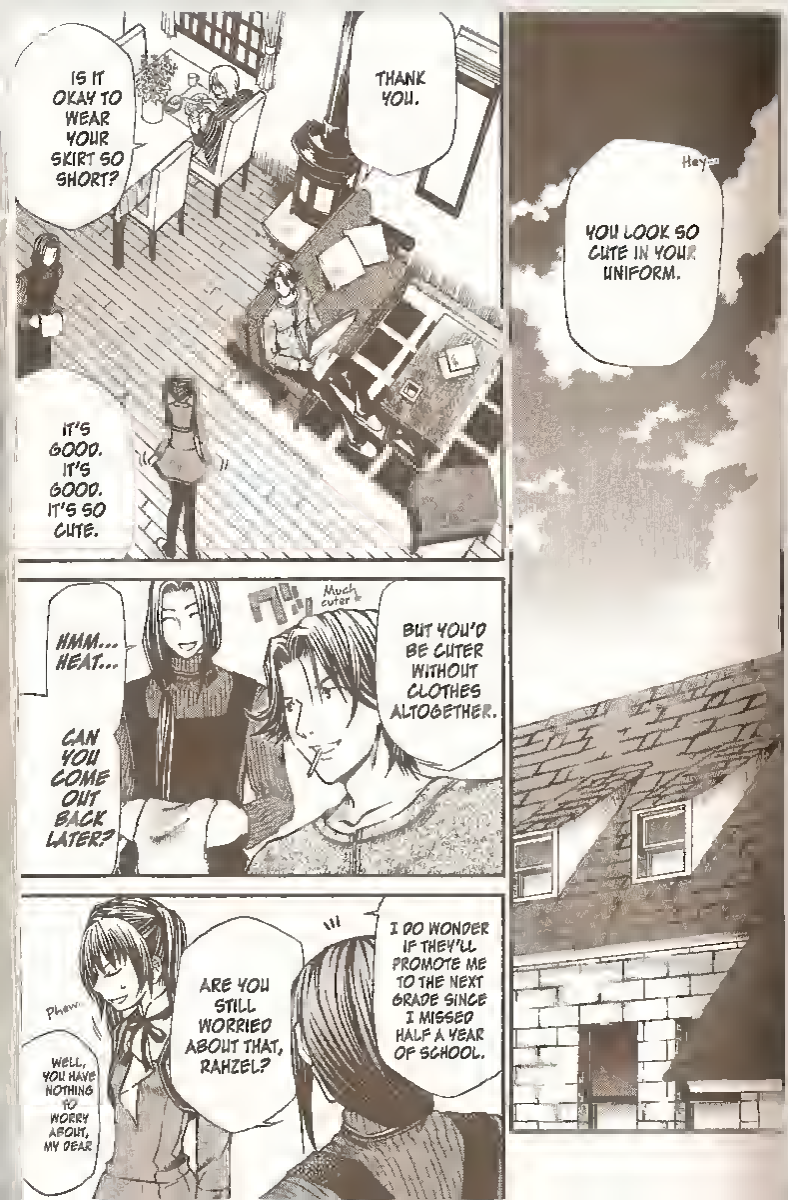
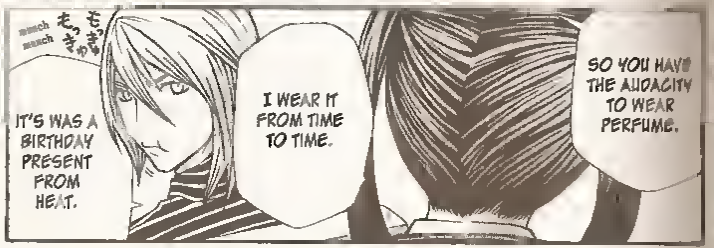
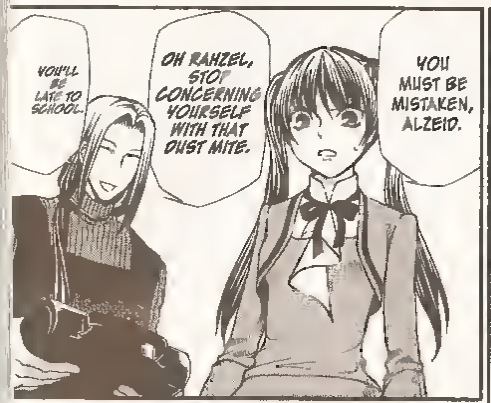
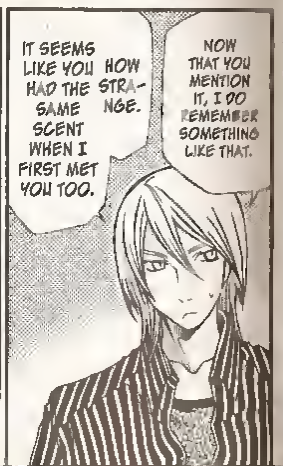

IS IT OKAY TO WEAR YOUR SKIRT SO SHORT?
THANK YOU.
IT'S GOOD. IT'S GOOD. IT'S SO CUTE.
Hey~
YOU LOOK SO CUTE IN YOUR UNIFORM.
HMM... HEAT...
Much cuter
BUT YOU'D BE CUTER WITHOUT CLOTHES ALTOGETHER.
CAN YOU COME OUT BACK LATER?
Phew...
ARE YOU STILL WORRIED ABOUT THAT, RAHZEL?
I DO WONDER IF THEY'LL PROMOTE ME TO THE NEXT GRADE SINCE I MISSED HALF A YEAR OF SCHOOL.
WELL, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MY DEAR

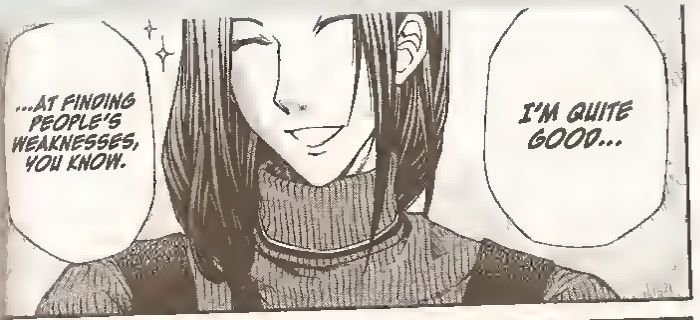
キュキュっ
tie
.....

I'M TRYING TO GUESS THE SCENT.
WELL, I SUPPOSE YOU WON'T.
HEY, WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
I PUT A TINY BIT ON THE BOTTOM OF MY SKIRT. HOW COULD YOU TELL?
YOU SURE HAVE BEEN ACTING STRANGE LATELY.
OH!
YOU'RE WEARING A PERFUME TODAY, RAHZEL.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH ME, YOU RUDENESS.
SO, ALREADY A PROBLEMATIC REMARK
NO. SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.


much much
IT'S WAS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FROM HEAT.
I WEAR IT FROM TIME TO TIME.
SO YOU HAVE THE AUDACITY TO WEAR PERFUME.


YOU'LL BE LATE TO SCHOOL.
OH RAHZEL, STOP CONCERNING YOURSELF WITH THAT DUST MITE.
YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, ALZEID.

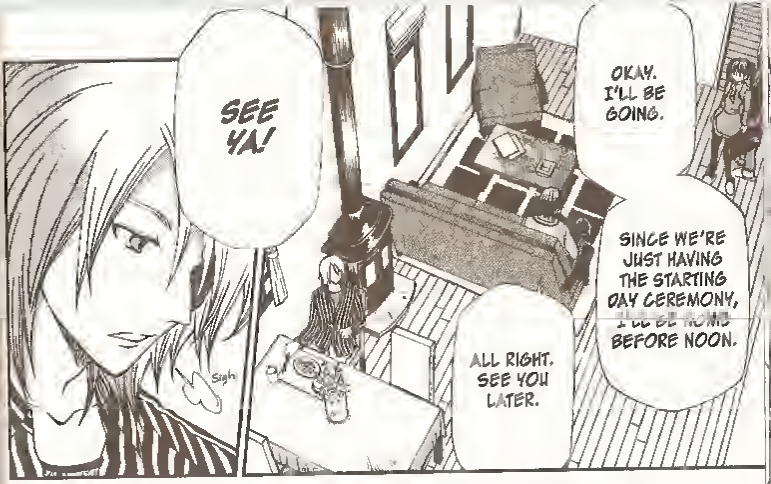

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAD THE SAME SCENT WHEN I FIRST MET YOU TOO.
HOW STRANGE.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I DO REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT.


...AT FINDING PEOPLE'S WEAKNESSES, YOU KNOW.
I'M QUITE GOOD...

IS THAT SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF?
HEY, YOU CRIMINAL MINDS OVER THERE...
YOU SEE?
HOW NICE.
I see!
UH-HUH. I'M SO GLAD I'M HIS DAUGHTER.

EXPRESSIONLESS JOSÉ.
NO WAY, JOSÉ.
KNOWING THAT, ALZEID...
...DON'T YOU WANT TO STAY IN THIS TOWN FOR ANOTHER YEAR SO I CAN SECURE MY FUTURE?
ARE YOU STARTING YOUR THIRD YEAR TODAY?
YES. THIS YEAR I START STUDYING FOR MY HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE EXAM.

I'LL TAKE YOU ON, YOU WHITE-HAIRED IMP!
YOU DON'T WANT HER TO WEAR THE PERFUME I GOT HER?
SHE TOLD ME TO GET HER SOME FLOWERS, SO I GOT HER TULIPS WITHOUT ANY SCENT.
MAYBE I'LL GO BUY THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT I'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF.
YOU MEAN RAHZEL'S?
WHAT? YOU HAVEN'T BOUGHT ONE YET?


SEE YA!
Sigh
ALL RIGHT. SEE YOU LATER.
OKAY. I'LL BE GOING.
SINCE WE'RE JUST HAVING THE STARTING DAY CEREMONY, I'LL BE HOME BEFORE NOON.

REALLY?
I'VE GOT LOTS OF THINGS TO DO.
NOW I'M BORED.

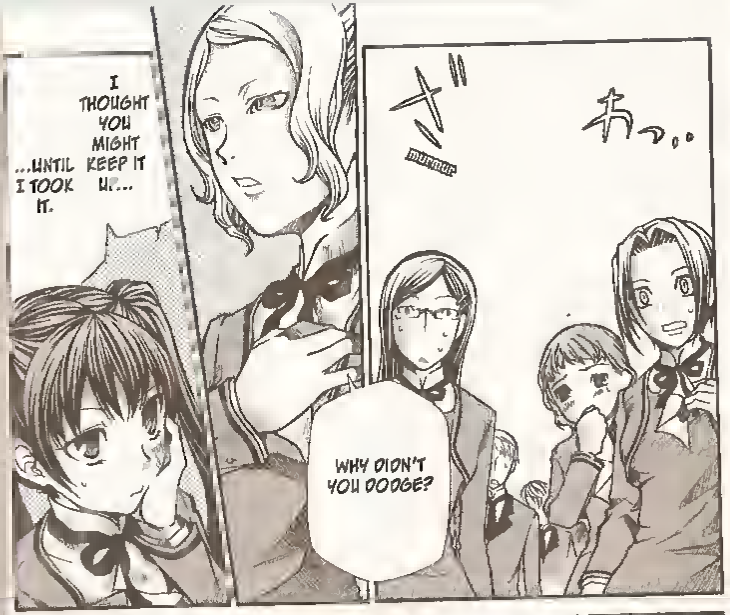
Hehe
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID IT, AL-BOY, NOT ME.
ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY THAT I'M THE ONLY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING HERE?

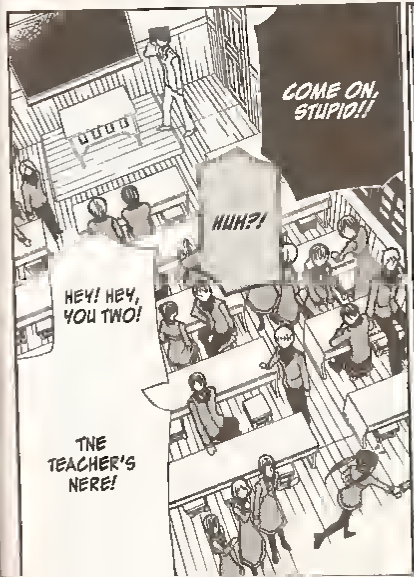
slap
AND WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO FOR HALF A YEAR?
WITHOUT DROPPING A LINE TO YOUR BEST FRIEND?
CLARISSA...
Smile
WELL, IF YOU'RE HERE, CLARISSA WON'T HANG OUT WITH US ANY MORE.
YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY TO SEE ME.
HUH, IT'S RAHZEL.
IT'S RAHZEL!
IT'S RAHZEL!!
Oh!
WELL, I'D LIKE TO BREAK YOU INTO TWO LENGTHWISE AND FOUR WIDTHWISE.
IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO AN OLD FRIEND?
JUST GO HOME.
"Watch her nose grow!"
GIVE IT UP, MY DEAR. CLARISSA IS RAHZEL'S BEST FRIEND.
BUT I'LL LET YOU TOUCH HER ONCE IN A WHILE, OKAY?
YOU GET ON MY NERVES.
WON'T YOU SHARE HER A BIT?
BAH!
ISN'T THAT SO?
CLARISSA LOVES RAHZEL. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT.

RIGHT. I'LL MAKE SURE THEY GET POINTS SUBTRACTED FROM THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS.
TEACHER! RAHZEL AND CLARISSA ARE SKIPPING CLASS.
SIT DOWN, KIDS. WE'RE STARTING HOMEROOM.

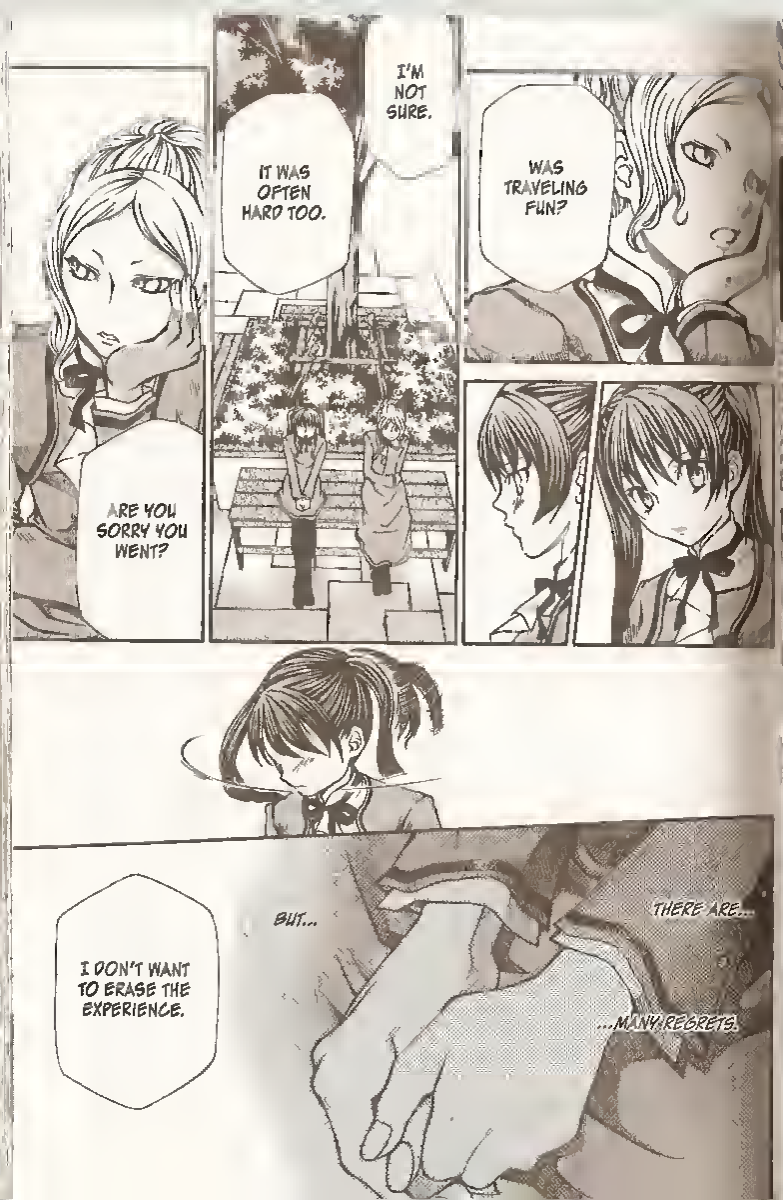
COME ON IN, YOU TWO.
I HAVE TWO NEW STUDENTS TO INTRODUCE TODAY.
WE'LL LEAVE THE TWO NO-GOOD KIDS BEHIND.
Creak

AND SO...
...THAT'S HOW I LEFT HOME TO TRAVEL.


I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT KEEP IT UP...
...UNTIL I TOOK IT.
WHY DIDN'T YOU DODGE?
murmur
おっ..


COME ON, STUPID!!
HUH?!
HEY! HEY, YOU TWO!
THE TEACHER'S HERE!

BESIDES, I DIDN'T THINK YOUR BITCH-SLAP WOULD HURT.
Rrrgh!
Eh heh.


I'M NOT SURE.
IT WAS OFTEN HARD TOO.
WAS TRAVELING FUN?
ARE YOU SORRY YOU WENT?
I DON'T WANT TO ERASE THE EXPERIENCE.
BUT...
THERE ARE...
...MANY REGRETS.

WELL
I'VE NEVER NEEDED IT.
DON'T YOU EVEN KNOW YOUR BEST FRIEND'S ADDRESS?!
HMM ...
IT'S A LITTLE WEAK AS AN EXCUSE FOR BEING OUT OF TOUCH FOR HALF A YEAR.
I'M SORRY.
I WANTED TO WRITE, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR ADDRESS.
SORRY...
SUCH A SHALLOW FRIENDSHIP.
WHAT OTHER STUFF?
WELL, LIKE HOW I MIGHT MAKE MONEY FOR THE DAY OR FIND LODGING FOR THE NIGHT...
...OR STUFF WITH MY TRAVEL BUDDIES ...
...OR GETTING TO KNOW THE NEW TOWN...
YOU COULD HAVE LEFT OUT THE LAST ONE.
I GUESS IF I REALLY WANTED TO, I COULD HAVE CONTACTED YOU...
...BUT I WAS SO BUSY DEALING WITH OTHER STUFF AT THE TIME.

REALLY?!
OH, SHOOT. I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE YOU.
YES, REALLY
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU'RE NOT IMPORTANT TO ME, CLARISSA.
Well she's cute enough.
nod
HUH?
SO, WHERE'S MY SOUVENIR?
SO... WELL ...I MEAN...
UMM... WELL...
?
IT WAS SO BUSY AND HECTIC RIGHT BEFORE I GOT HOME, AND...
W-WELL, UH...
YES, AND...?
MY SOUVENIR.
A GIFT FOR THE BEST FRIEND WHO YOU LEFT WHILE YOU WENT ON A LONG TRIP.
Wah Wah
おたおた
Wah Wah

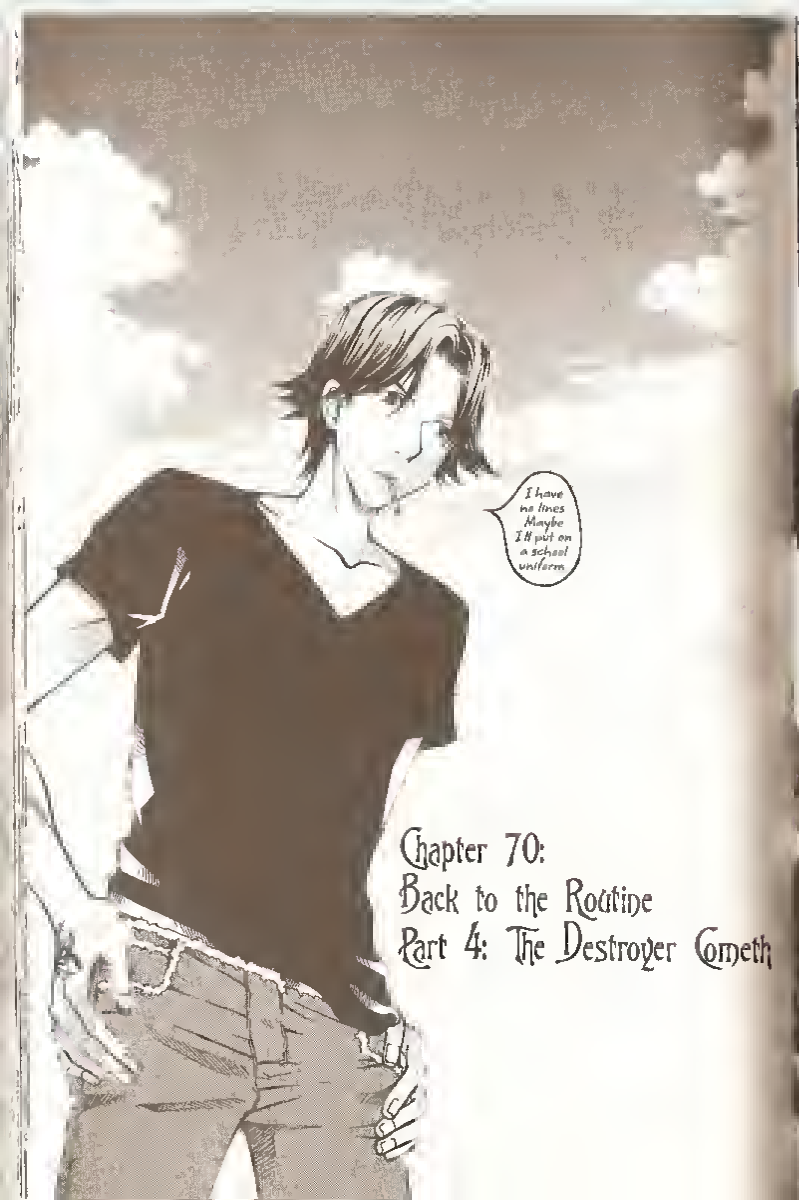
WHAT IS IT?
WHO IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU: ME OR THOSE TRAVELING BUDDIES OF YOURS?
GEH.
.....
HEY, RAHZEL...
HUH?
BUT, YOU KNOW...
SORRY.
HONESTY ISN'T ALWAYS A VIRTUE, YOU KNOW, RAHZEL.
EVEN IF YOU APOLOGIZE.
ARE YOU GOING TO ASK ME THAT TOO, CLARISSA? WELL THEN, I'M GOING TO ANSWER YOU. SORRY, BUT IT'S THEM.

YES, I'M FINALLY HOME.
I WANT YOU TO HANG OUT WITH ME FOR AN ENTIRE DAY WITHOUT YOUR TRAVELING BUDDIES.
AND FURTHER-MORE...
I'M AT YOUR SERVICE.
SOME-THING ELSE?
WELCOME HOME, RAHZEL.
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU MINE.
SO I'LL BE OUT OF UNIFORM FROM DAY ONE?
I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH THIS.
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT THAT.
LIKE A TRADE?
BUT THAT WOULDN'T MAKE IT A SOUVENIR, WOULD IT?
A DATE?
NO. AND I WANT A DATE.
OKAY. WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE IT?
IN THAT CASE, MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE ME A HOMEMADE APPLE PIE OR SOMETHING.
TOMOR-ROW.
YOU'RE NOT WASTING ANY TIME.

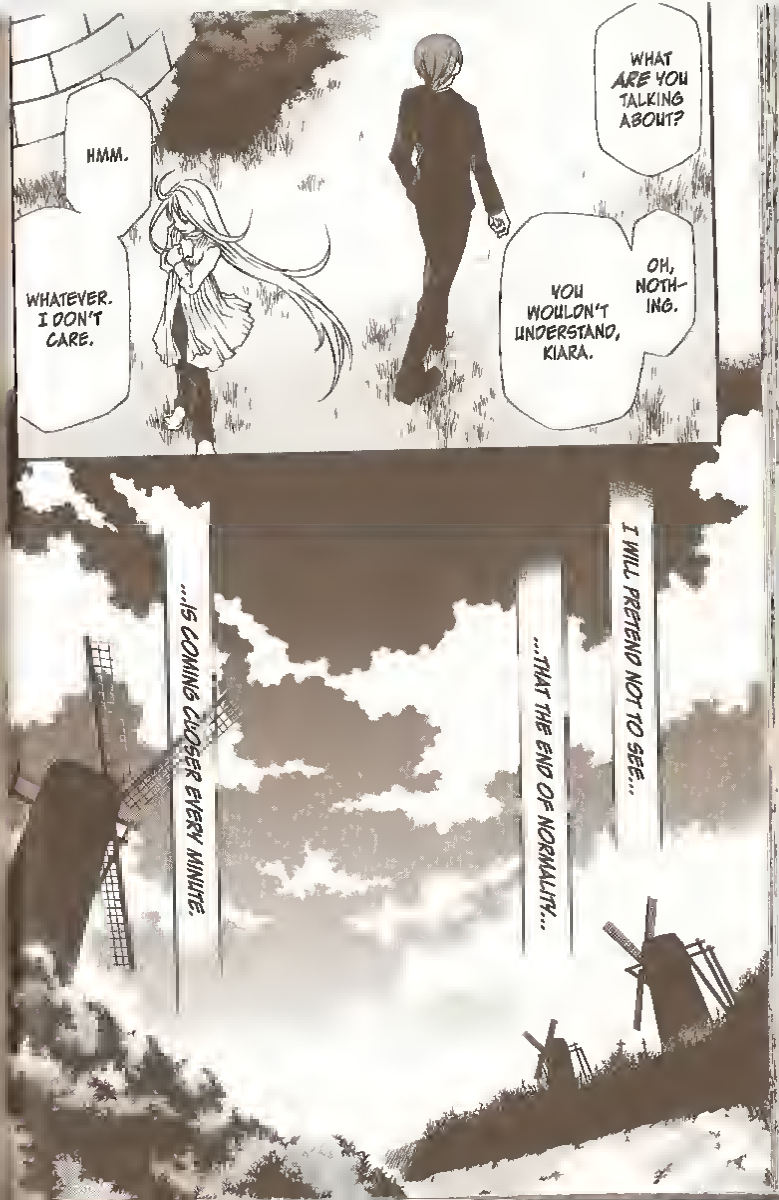
I'M JUST AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER.
WHAT? I'M OBSERVING YOU, OF COURSE, RAHZEL.
WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE SUCH AN HONEST STALKER DECLARATION?
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?
SHOGETSU IS SOMEONE I MET IN THE TOWN OF PROMETHEUS.
THESE AREN'T YOUR TRAVELING BUDDIES, ARE THEY?
AND I GUESS I DIDN'T MEET FAY 'TIL I RETURNED TO EBROZE.
SO WE'RE THE SAME AGE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE OLDER.
I'M 17 AND SHOGETSU IS 16.
WE ARE OLDER.

WE SKIPPED HOMEROOM ON THE FIRST DAY, I GUESS.
DO YOU THINK WE'LL BE IN TROUBLE?
WELL, YES. QUITE A BIT.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GO TO THE OFFICE AND APOLOGIZE FIRST.
TO MAKE AS GOOOD AN IMPRESSION AS POSSIBLE.
HELLO.
WELCOME BACK, RAHZEL.

YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD, ALZEID.
I SMELL HER PERFUME
PERFUME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT BOTTLE IS EMPTY.
THE SMELL OF MY FAVORITE BIG SISTER.
SO I PRETEND NOT TO SEE ANYTHING AT ALL.
AND SO, NORMALITY RESUMES ONCE AGAIN.
SO, YOU FLUNKED?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME GOING TO SCHOOL.
OH, NO. I'VE BEEN PROMOTED WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS AT THE MILITARY ACADEMY.
MY LIFE IS A TOTAL MESS BECAUSE OF SHOGETSU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?
WHAT A LOVELY, NORMAL, ORDINARY DAY.
WE GET EXCITED THINKING ABOUT HOW TO SPEND THE WEEKEND.
NEXT SUNDAY.
WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON OUR DATE, BOSS?
CAN I COME ALONG?
NOT POSSIBLE.
WE GO TO SCHOOL, AND THEN BACK HOME.

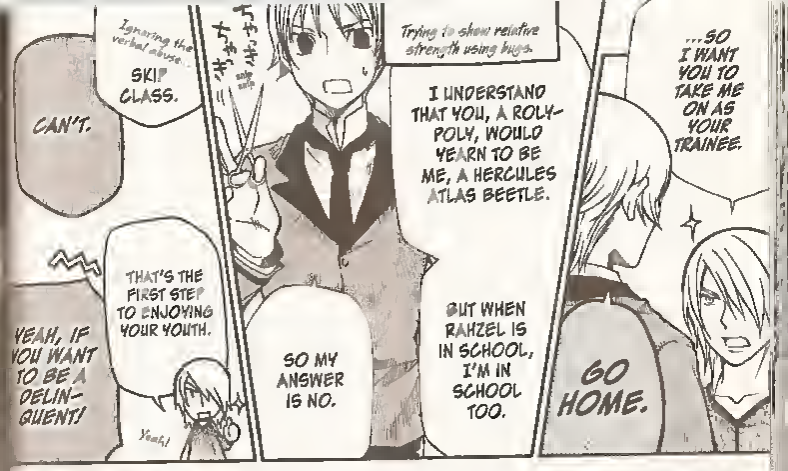


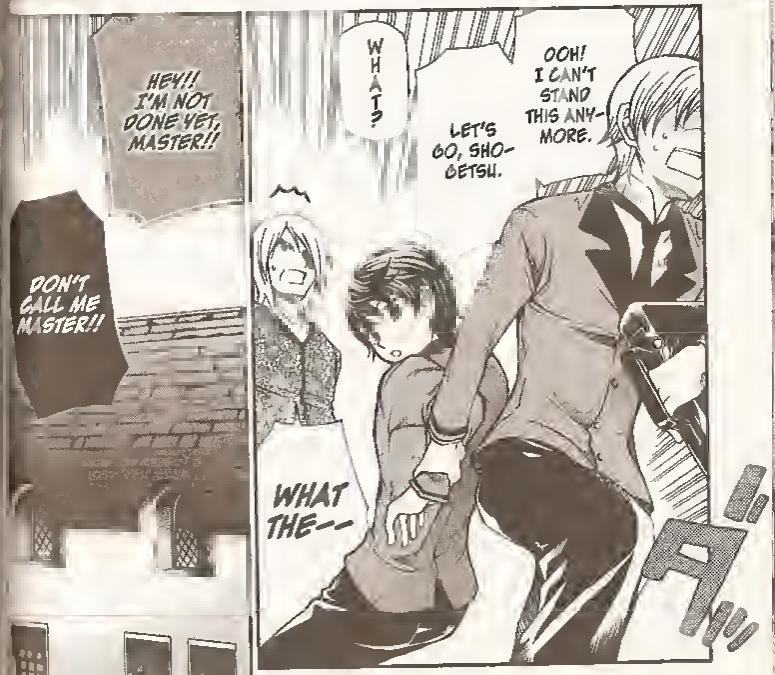
Chapter 70:
Back to the Routine
Part 4: The Destroyer Cometh

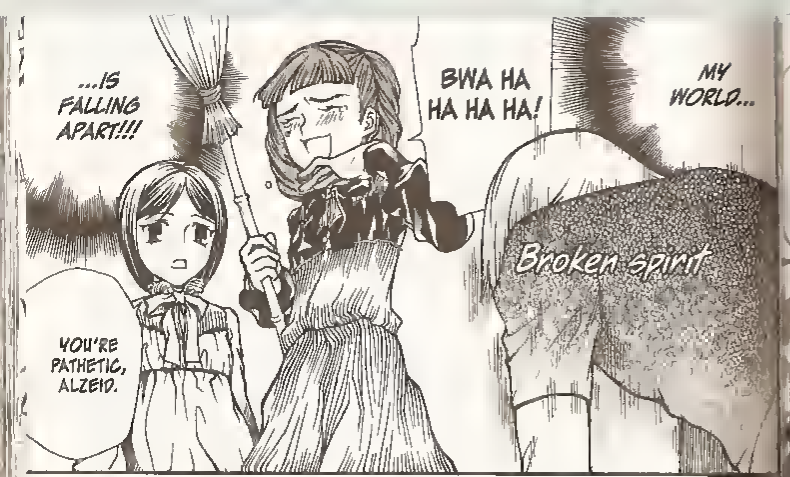

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OH, NOTHING.
YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND, KIARA.
HMM.
WHATEVER. I DON'T CARE.
I WILL PRETEND NOT TO SEE...
...THAT THE END OF NORMALITY...
...IS COMING CLOSER EVERY MINUTE.

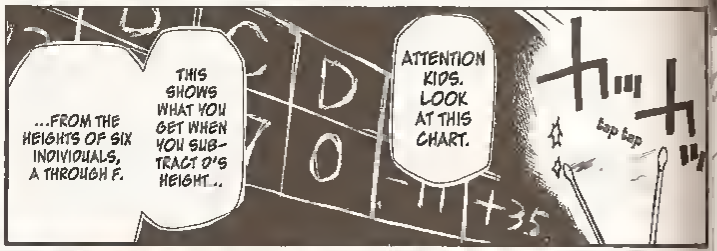
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?
NOW LISTEN...
...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT HOW TO SPEND MY TIME WHILE RAHZEL'S IN SCHOOL.
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO...
I WANT YOU TO TRAIN ME.
slam
WHAT'S UP, WARRANT OFFICER?
IT'S A NEWSPAPER SALESMAN. LET'S GO OUT THE BACK.
NOW MAKE ME YOUR TRAINEE.
I'M NOT GONNA HURT YOU.
OH, IT'S ALZEID. GOOD MORNING!
Come on!!
OFF TO SCHOOL? HAVE A NICE DAY.
WAIT. WHERE'S ALZEID?
OKAY, I'M LEAVING!
AL-BOY WENT OFF SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A MAN'S BATTLE.
HUH?

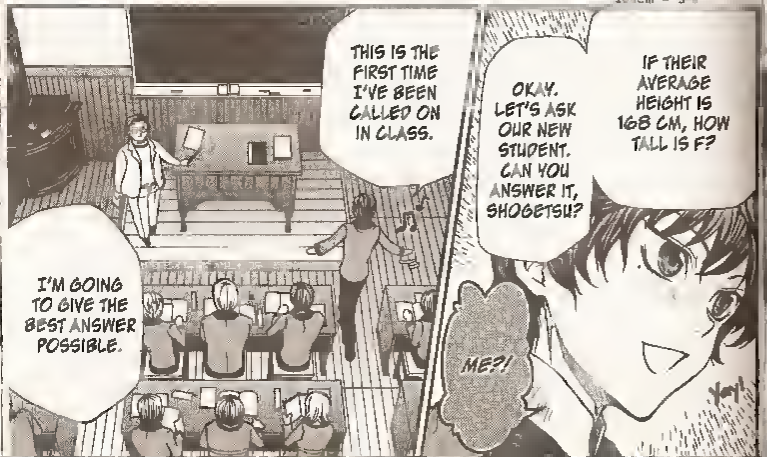
ALZEID IS SUCH AN INTERESTING CHARACTER.
NICE. GOOD JOB.
HE CAME AFTER ME, SO I HAD SALASA AND BEFYLA HOLD HIM DOWN WHILE--
IT WAS DEEPLY UPSETTING.
OH
HE WAS VISITING FAY'S HOUSE?
ET TU, RAHZEL?
COULDN'T YOU GIVE IN AND TAKE HIM ON?
I'M SURPRISED THAT SUCH A TYRANT WOULD COME BEGGING TO YOU.


CAN'T.
Ignoring the verbal abuse...
SKI? CLASS.
YEAH, IF YOU WANT TO BE A DELINQUENT!
THAT'S THE FIRST STEP TO ENJOYING YOUR YOUTH.
Yeah!
Trying to show relative strength using hugs.
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU, A ROLY-POLY, WOULD YEARN TO BE ME, A HERCULES ATLAS BEETLE.
SO MY ANSWER IS NO.
BUT WHEN RAHZEL IS IN SCHOOL, I'M IN SCHOOL TOO.
...SO I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME ON AS YOUR TRAINEE.
GO HOME.


HEY!! I'M NOT DONE YET, MASTER!!
DON'T CALL ME MASTER!!
WHAT?
OOH! I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE.
LET'S GO, SHOGETSU.
WHAT THE--

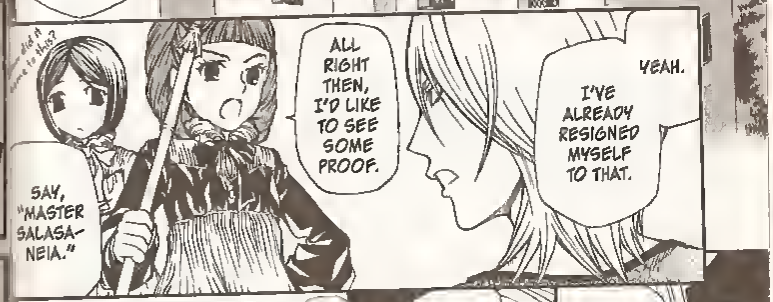

...IS FALLING APART!!!
BWA HA HA HA HA!
MY WORLD...
Broken spirit
YOU'RE PATHETIC, ALZEID.


ATTENTION KIDS. LOOK AT THIS CHART.
THIS SHOWS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU SUBTRACT D'S HEIGHT..
...FROM THE HEIGHTS OF SIX INDIVIDUALS, A THROUGH F.
tap tap
*168cm = 5'6"

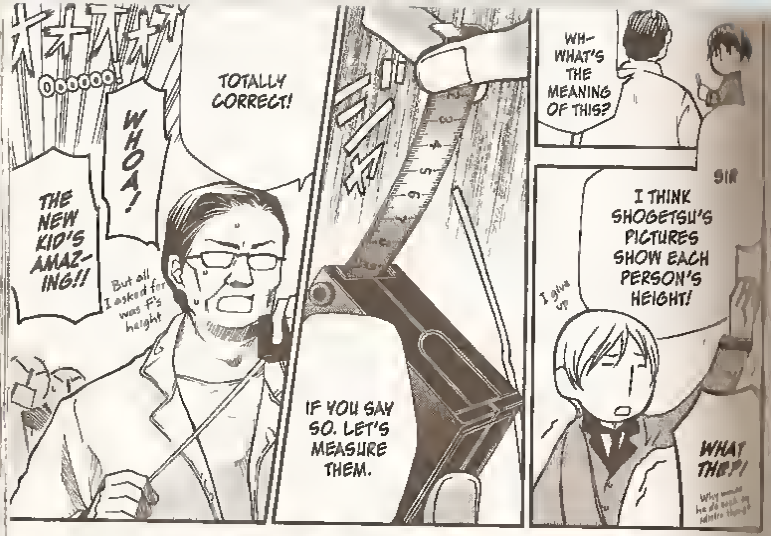

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN CALLED ON IN CLASS.
I'M GOING TO GIVE THE BEST ANSWER POSSIBLE.
OKAY. LET'S ASK OUR NEW STUDENT. CAN YOU ANSWER IT, SHOGETSU?
IF THEIR AVERAGE HEIGHT IS 168 CM, HOW TALL IS F?
ME?!

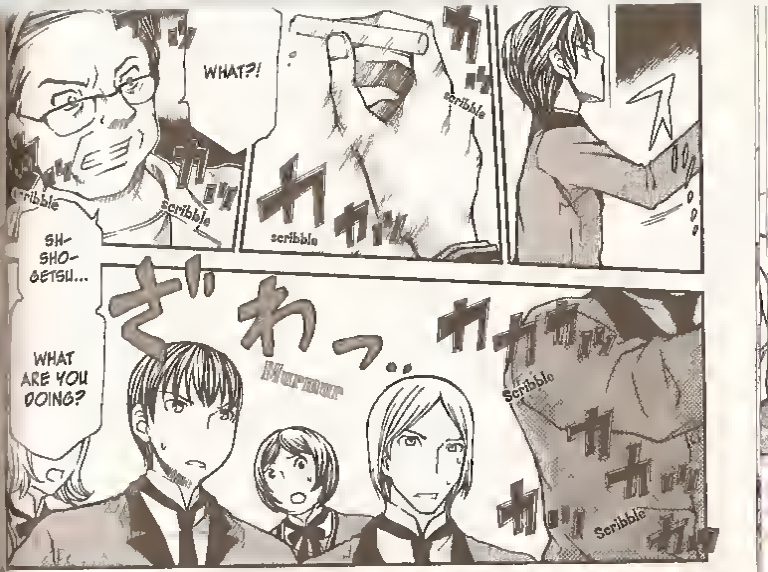
I CAN'T TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MORE STUDENTS.
BESIDES, I'M ALREADY SORT OF TRAINING SOMEBODY.
I'M STILL IN TRAINING MYSELF.

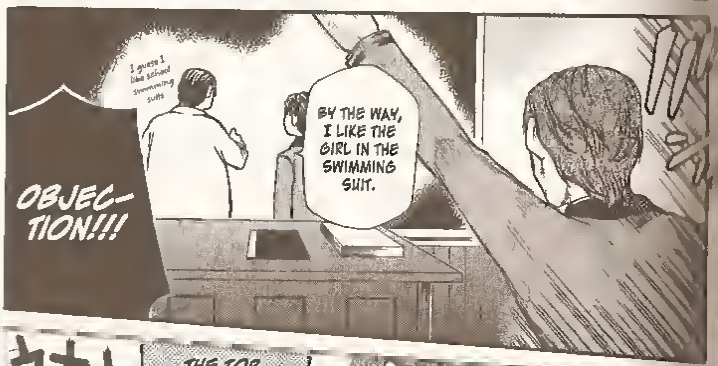
...THAT MEANS YOU GET TO BE OUR TRAINEE, GOT IT?
SO, YOU SEE...

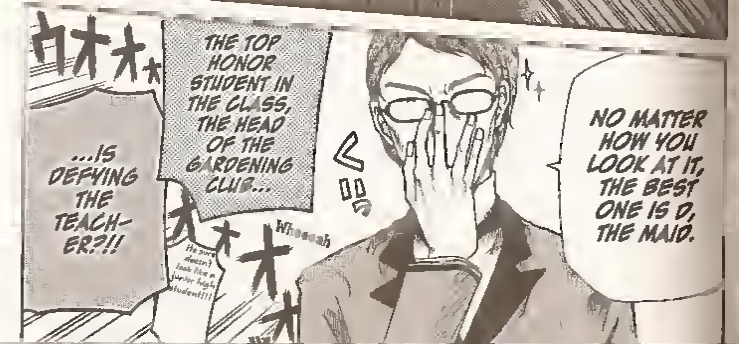

SAY, "MASTER SALASANEIA."
ALL RIGHT THEN, I'D LIKE TO SEE SOME PROOF.
YEAH. I'VE ALREADY RESIGNED MYSELF TO THAT.

...NEIA.
...SALASA...
WHAT? I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
M-MASTER...
FINE. I'LL SAY IT.
RRGH...
OH?
YOU WON'T DO IT? I SEE. NOT VERY COMMITTED, ARE YOU?
WHAT?!


Ooooooo
WHOA!
THE NEW KID'S AMAZING!!
But all I asked for was S's height
TOTALLY CORRECT!
IF YOU SAY SO. LET'S MEASURE THEM.
WH-WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
SIR
I THINK SHOGETSU'S PICTURES SHOW EACH PERSON'S HEIGHT!
I give up
WHAT THE?!
Why would he do such a weird thing?


WHAT?!
scribble
SH-SHO-GETSU...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Murmur
Scribble


I guess I like school swimming suits
BY THE WAY, I LIKE THE GIRL IN THE SWIMMING SUIT.
OBJEC-TION!!!

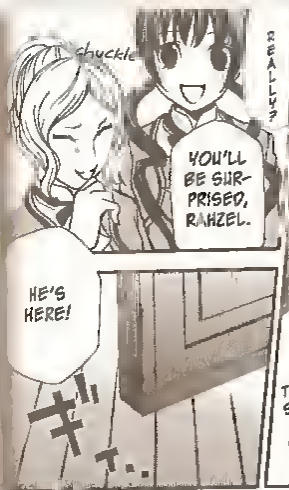

...IS DEFYING THE TEACH-ER?!!
THE TOP HONOR STUDENT IN THE CLASS, THE HEAD OF THE GARDENING CLUB...
Whoosh
He sure doesn't look like a model student!!!
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THE BEST ONE IS D, THE MAID.

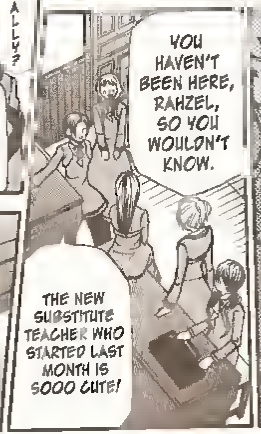
FINISHED!!
D
F
F
0
-11
+∞

How did it come to this?
Oh, dear
I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO BECOME DELINQUENTS.
Magical girl!!
Last breath.
Pissed off
QUIT JOKING AROUND, SHOGETSU.
Please don't cross my Magic-ter!
Come to your senses!
THIS IS A FRESH NEW DELIGHT!
HOW DID WE GET SENT OUT INTO THE HALL ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?
Next class
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GO HOME.
I'M PERFECTLY OKAY WITH THAT.
PERHAPS THAT'S AIMING TOO HIGH--- WE'RE ONLY NOVICE DELINQUENTS.
LIKE BREAKING ALL THE WINDOWS AROUND THE SCHOOL?
OH NO!! CLASS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!!
And I've always wanted to try one
IN THAT CASE, CAN WE BUY ALL THE YAKISOBA ROLLS? THEY'RE THE MOST POPULAR
ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING TO PASS AROUND SOME PAPER, AND EVERYONE WILL VOTE.
MAKE SURE YOU VOTE FOR ONE PERSON FROM A TO E.
NO FAIR!! WHAT ABOUT F?!! CAN'T YOU VOTE FOR F, TEACHER?!!
OF COURSE, I'M PARTIAL TOWARD THE GENTLEMAN, F.
HIS BEAUTY IS ALMOST CRIMINAL...
OVERRULED!!
SCHOOL IS SUCH A FUN PLACE, WARRANT OFFICER.
YOU THINK SO? I'M GLAD.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT YOUR NECK INSIDE THIS ROPE?
IF YOU HANG OUT THE WINDOW, IT MIGHT BE EVEN MORE FUN.
Boohoo
E... may be.
ding dong
SINCE I MET YOU, MY LIFE HAS BECOME A TOTAL MESS!

JELICE?!
YOU KNOW HIM?
COME, COME. NO HANKY-PANKY DURING CLASS, RAHZEL ANADIS!
BUT...BUT... AREN'T YOU LIKE A PRIEST OR SOMETHING?
THE VICE PRINCIPAL IS A MEMBER OF MY CONGREGATION AND HE SIMPLY INSISTED.
I COULDN'T SAY NO TO SUCH A LARGE DONOR.
OH. LIFE IS TOUGH THESE DAYS.
BUT LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW.

WHEN DID OUR CLASSROOM BECOME A DARLING LITTLE DINING ROOM?
THEY'RE DELICIOUS.
I DIDN'T ASK.


chuckle
REALLY?
YOU'LL BE SURPRISED, RAHZEL.
HE'S HERE!

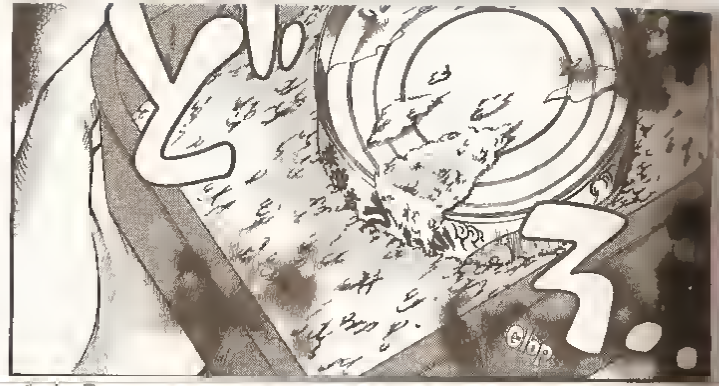

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE, RAHZEL, SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW.
THE NEW SUBSTITUTE TEACHER WHO STARTED LAST MONTH IS SOOO CUTE!

I'D BETTER HIKE UP MY SKIRT A LITTLE BIT.
I NEED MORE LIP GLOSS.
WHAT IS THIS? THE GIRLS ARE ALL EXCITED.

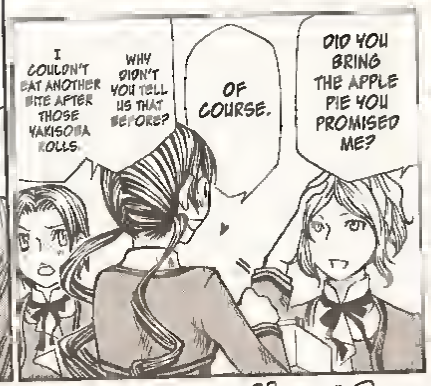
Ta-da!
IT'S TIME FOR MR. JELICE'S SEDUCTION CLASS. ♥
HELLO, EVERYBODY! HAVE A NICE SPRING BREAK?
Of course my glasses can be on or off.

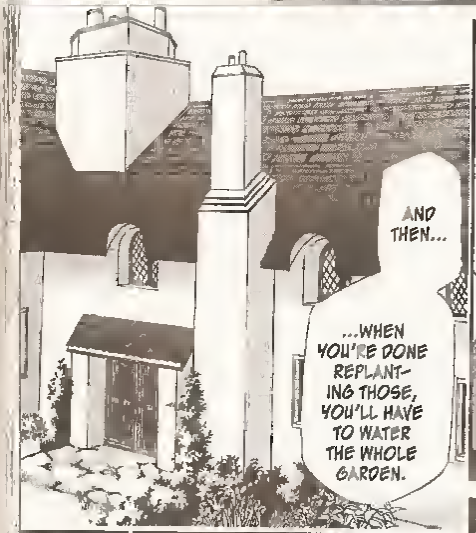
. . . . . .

ON A DAY LIKE THIS, WE OUGHT TO EAT LUNCH OUTSIDE.
OH! WHAT A LOVELY DAY!
ISN'T THE TERRACE OFF LIMITS FOR STUDENTS?
THE MORE THE MERRIER.
CAN WE COME ALONG TOO?
WE HAVE A TEACHER WITH US, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M A STALKER, SO I'M NOT EITHER.
I'M CAMPAIGNING FOR THE POSITION OF LEGAL HUSBAND.
WHICH OF YOU IS RAHZEL'S LOVER?
SO...I LIKE TO CUT TO THE CHASE
YOUR REACTION IS BORING.
HUH? IT TASTES OKAY.
The Warrant Officer seems to have given in.
munch munch
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, BUT YOU'RE THE RINGLEADER, RIGHT?
WELL ...
THESE ARE A GREAT INVENTION THOUGH.
THEY CALL THEM LUNCH ROLLS LIKE IT'S SOME KIND OF MEAL, BUT THEY'RE MADE ALMOST ENTIRELY OUT OF FLOUR.
CARBS FILLED WITH MORE CARBS!!
HA, HA...
DELINQUENTS NEVER THINK AHEAD.
WE DIDN'T THINK ABOUT WHAT WE WOULD DO ONCE WE BOUGHT THE STORE OUT.
I should change jobs
OH, MR. JELICE? WHY AM I HERE?
BEING A TEACHER IS SO DELICIOUS! I CAN BULLY CHILDREN WITH IMPUNITY.
CAN YOU STOP IT AT THE TOP OF THE SWING?
THAT'S NICE.
LOOK! IF YOU DO THIS, THE WATER DOESN'T SPILL.
.....
Centrifugal force
HUH?
LIFE JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER.
WE'RE NOT IN THE HALLWAY THIS TIME.

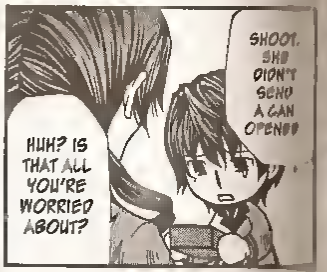

Gulp

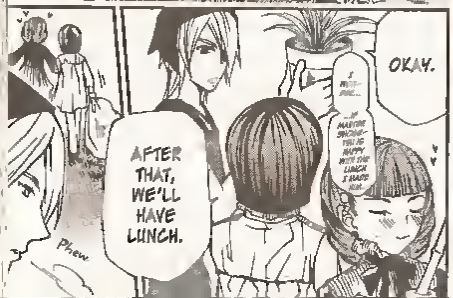
AREN'T YOU GUYS FULL TOO?
BUT I WAS HOPING THAT YOU WOULD ALL HELP ME FINISH THIS TOO.
YES, WE ARE ...

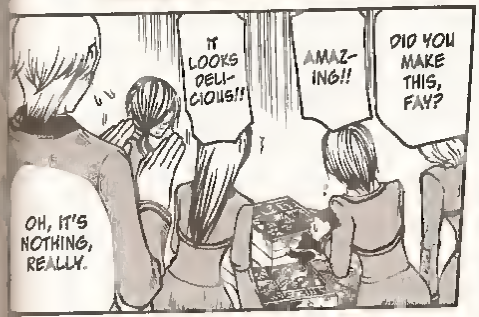

I COULDN'T EAT ANOTHER BITE AFTER THOSE YAKISOBA ROLLS.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US THAT BEFORE?
OF COURSE.
DID YOU BRING THE APPLE PIE YOU PROMISED ME?


AND THEN...
...WHEN YOU'RE DONE REPLANTING THOSE, YOU'LL HAVE TO WATER THE WHOLE GARDEN.

IT MIGHT BE NICE FOR OLD FOGEYS WITH NO TEETH.
AND WHAT'S WITH THE CREAMY RICE?
A CAN OF MACKEREL?


HUH? IS THAT ALL YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT?
SHOOT. SHE DIDN'T SEND A CAN OPENER

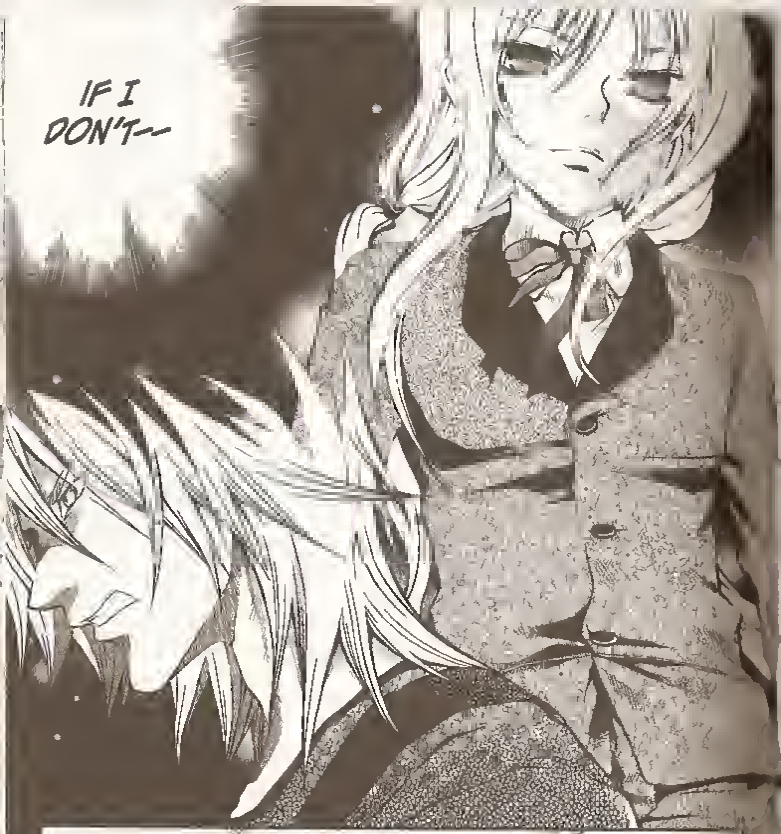

OKAY.
I MUST PANIC.
OF MASTER SHOUSUKE THIS IS HAPPY WITH THE LUNCH I MADE FOR HIM!
AFTER THAT, WE'LL HAVE LUNCH.
Phew

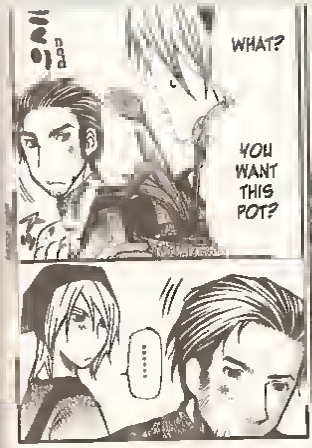

DID YOU MAKE THIS, FAY?
AMAZ-ING!!
IT LOOKS DELI-CIOUS!!
OH, IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.

WHAT IS THIS ?!!
IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN MY FIGHT LIKE, TOTALLY BEYOND COMPARI-SON!!
BUT WHERE WAS IT?
INSIDE THE HANDLE OF MY SCIS-SORS.

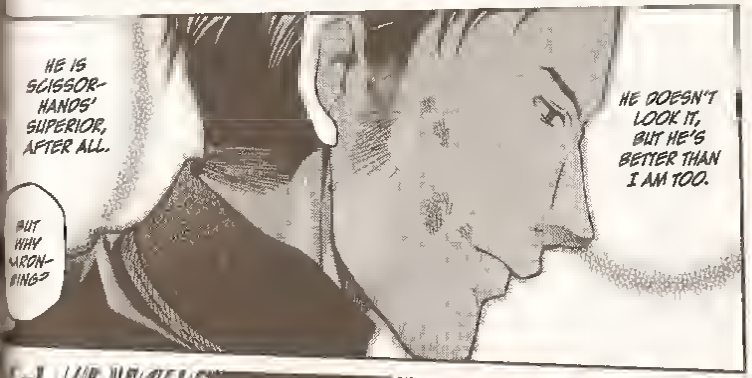
UH-HUH. IT'S NOT EASY, BUT SINCE SALASANEIA MADE THIS ESPECIALLY FOR ME...
OH, SHO-GETSU, ARE YOU STILL EATING YOUR OWN LUNCH?

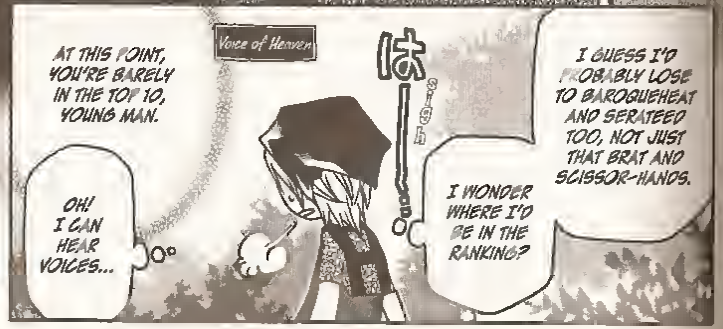
To-daaa

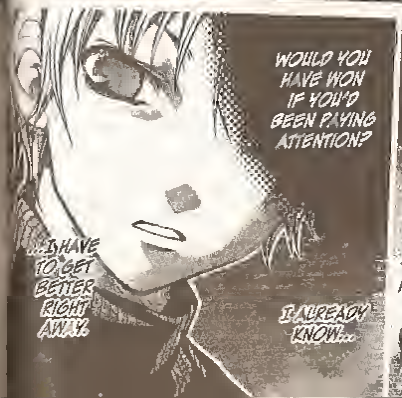

IF I DON'T--

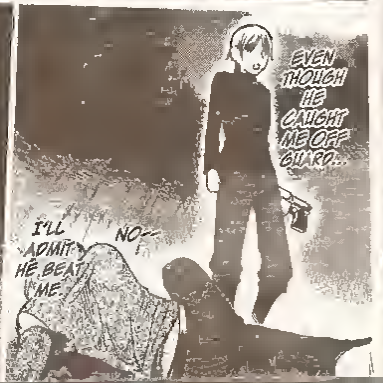

WHAT?
YOU WANT THIS POT?

WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?

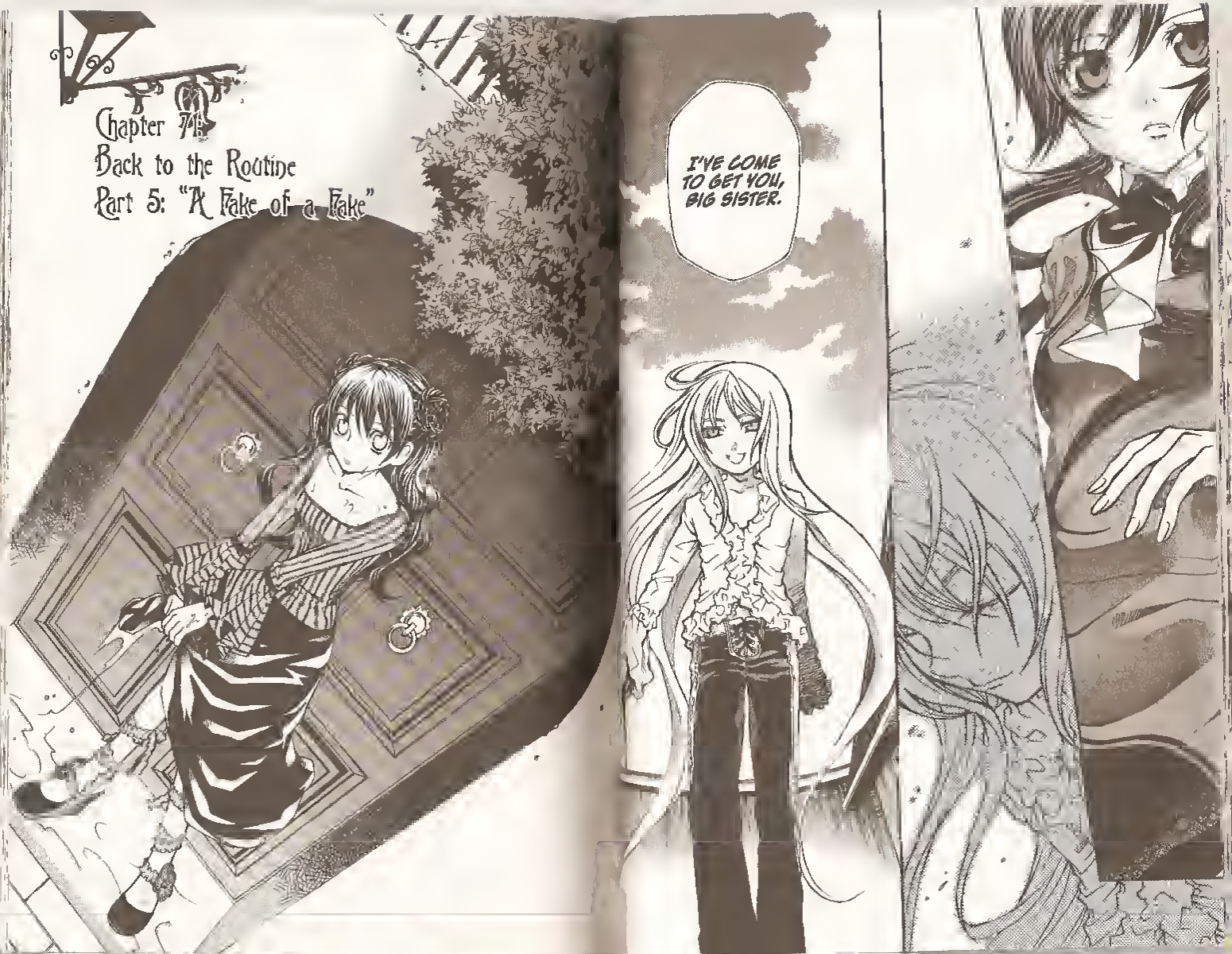

HE IS SCISSOR-HANDS' SUPERIOR, AFTER ALL.
BUT WHY WRONG-ING?
HE DOESN'T LOOK IT, BUT HE'S BETTER THAN I AM TOO.


Voice of Heaven
AT THIS POINT, YOU'RE BARELY IN THE TOP 10, YOUNG MAN.
OH! I CAN HEAR VOICES...
I WONDER WHERE I'D BE IN THE RANKING?
I GUESS I'D PROBABLY LOSE TO BAROQUEHEAT AND SERATEED TOO, NOT JUST THAT BRAT AND SCISSOR-HANDS.

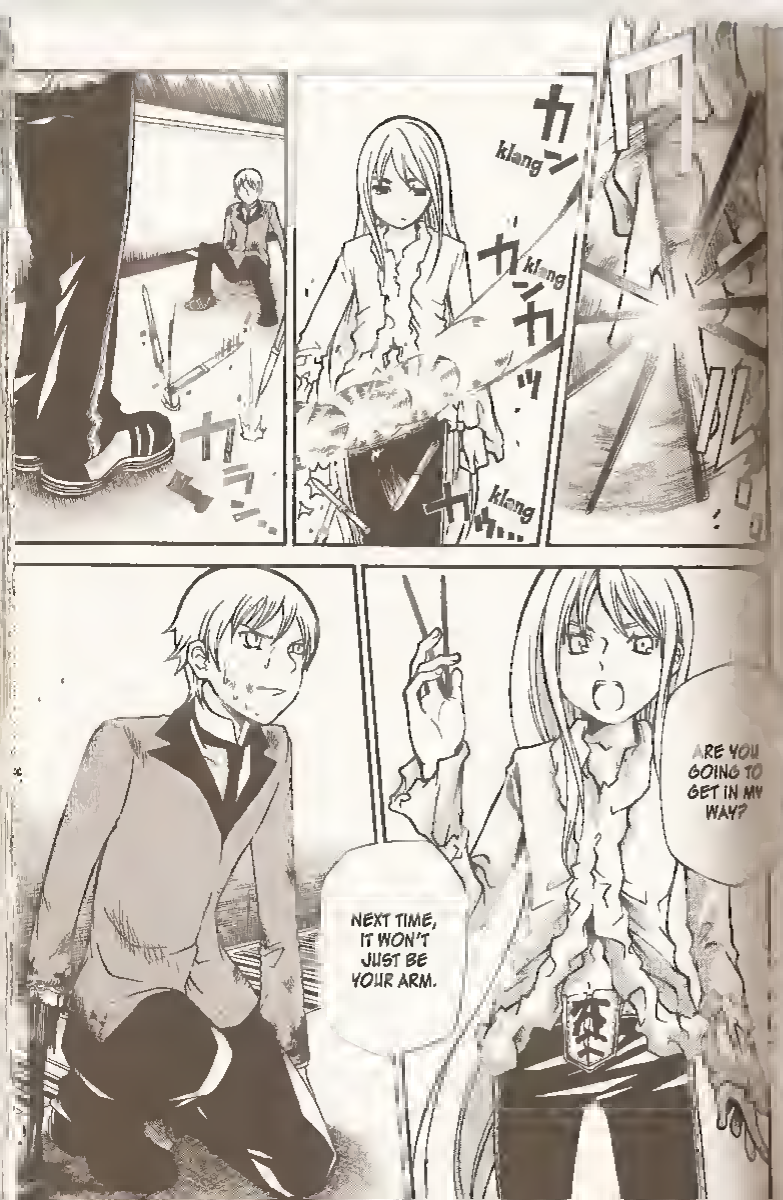

WOULD YOU HAVE WON IF YOU'D BEEN PAYING ATTENTION?
...I HAVE TO GET BETTER RIGHT AWAY.
I ALREADY KNOW...


EVEN THOUGH HE CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD...
I'LL ADMIT HE BEAT ME.
NO--!

WOW.
Whoosh
I PROTECTED IT WITH MY LIFE.
WHAT ABOUT LUNCH?!
GOOD JOB!!
WHAT AN AWFUL WIND! MAYBE WE OUGHT TO GO INSIDE
WHOA.
MY CHOPSTICKS GOT BLOWN...
...AWAY.
SHE'LL PROBABLY START SEPARATING RICE GROWN BY MEN AND RICE GROWN BY WOMEN NEXT.
JUST LEAVE HER ALONE. SHE DOESN'T LIKE MEN.
NO THANK YOU.
I TRY NOT TO EAT FOOD THAT'S BEEN PREPARED BY MEN.
CLARISSA...
WHY ARE YOU ALL THE WAY OVER THERE? WON'T YOU COME AND TRY SOME OF MY LUNCH?
SHOOT. THERE'S NO FORK OR CHOPSTICKS EITHER.
WHOA,
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A PUT-DOWN?
SHUT UP, YOU ULTIMATE GOURMET, SCISSOR-HANDS! GO BE A THREE-STAR CHEF OR SOMETHING!!
Wocaah!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY.
NO WAY!! I WON'T LET FAY HAVE ANY OF MY PIE!!
WHY DON'T WE HAVE SOME WITH RAHZEL'S PIE?
I MADE A CITRON TART FOR DESSERT TOO.
You maidens pride crusher!!


Chapter 74
Back to the Routine
Part 5: "A Fake of a Fake"
I'VE COME TO GET YOU, BIG SISTER.

I'VE COME TO GET YOU, BIG SISTER.
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
Huh?
SHO-GETSU, MOVE!!
Ack!
HUH?!
W--
WHOA!
WHAT THE?!


カラン...
カン klang
カン klang
カッ
klang
ん...
ARE YOU GOING TO GET IN MY WAY?
NEXT TIME, IT WON'T JUST BE YOUR ARM.

ドン
vom
ズ Slide
GAH...

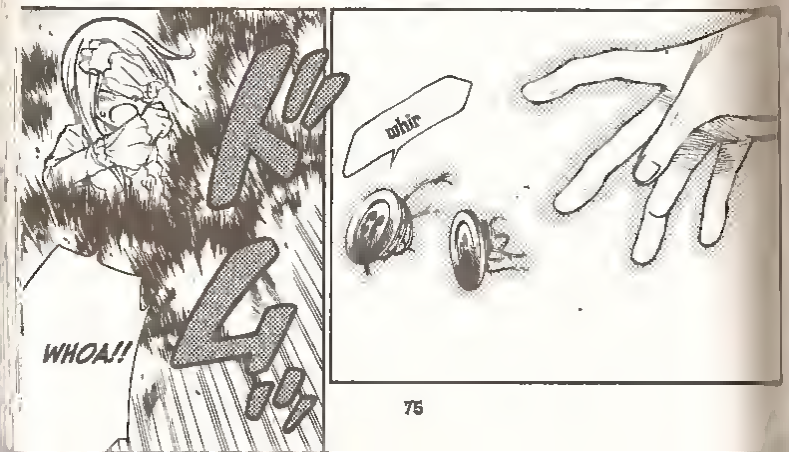
I'M NOT GOING ANY-WHERE.
WHAT THE?!
BE QUIET! WHY DON'T YOU JUST LEAVE ALREADY?
DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU'RE SAYING
キン
キン
I HAVE TO WATCH MY WARRANT OFFICER...
...LOSE THIS FIGHT.

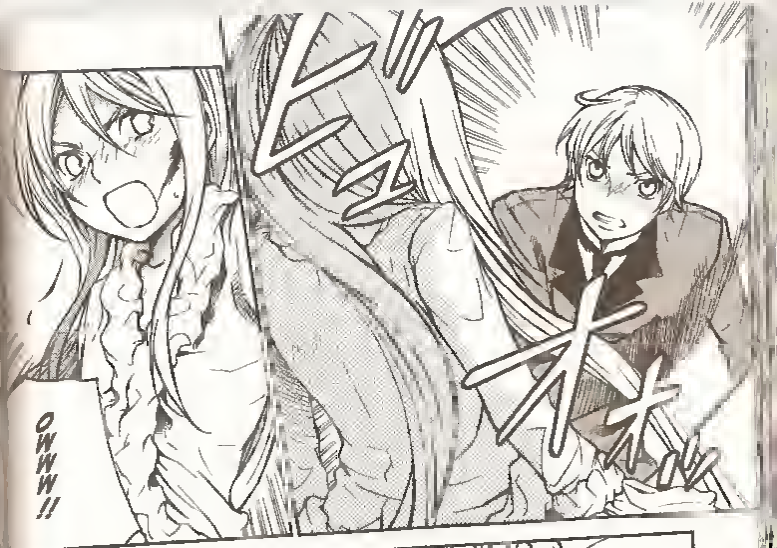
HOGETSU, YOU OUGHT TO TAKE COVER TOO.
RAHZEL, YOU WOULDN'T COME EVEN IF I TOLD YOU TO, WOULD YOU?
EVERY-BODY!! COME QUICKLY!!
drip
drip
drip
NO...I DON'T THINK SO.
.....

I CAN'T RUN AWAY AND LEAVE MY STUDENTS, CAN I?
Wow
SUCH A DEVOTED TEACHER!
JUST GO.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU AND RAHZEL?
WHAT?!
YOU GUYS GO BACK THE CLASS ROOM
ドゴ

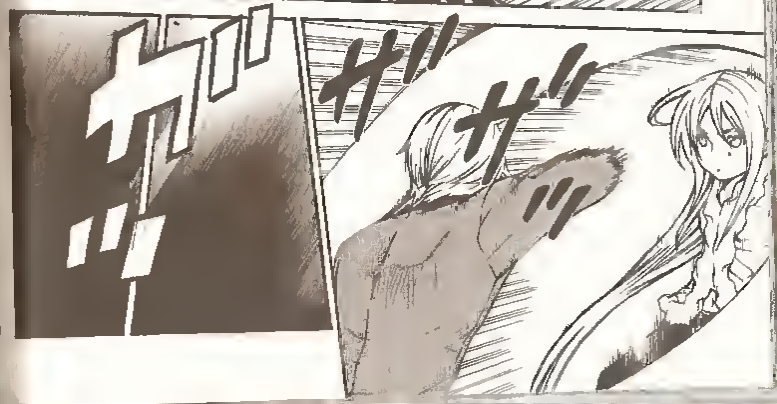
Lose it
SHOGETSU, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING-- JUST FOR MY INFORMATION.
SHOULD THE STUDENTS BE EVACUATED?
Hmm?
THAT LITTLE KID'S JUST FIRING SOME COUNTER-BLOWS. HE'S NOT INITIATING ANY ATTACKS HIMSELF.
He's not even trying
I DON'T THINK SO.
I DON'T THINK HE'LL INVOLVE ANYONE ELSE IN FIGHTING THE WARRANT OFFICER WHO'S A LOWER LEVEL THAN HE IS.
IT'S JUST A GUESS, THOUGH.
Sigh
THIS IS ALSO JUST A GUESS, BUT I DON'T THINK NE WANTS TO HURT YOU.
I THINK IF WE STAY CLOSE TO RAHZEL, WE'LL BE PRETTY SAFE.

Right Arm
HE NAILED THE LINKS OF THE NUNCHUCKS TO THE GROUND WITH CHOPSTICKS?!
Snap
Snap
?!

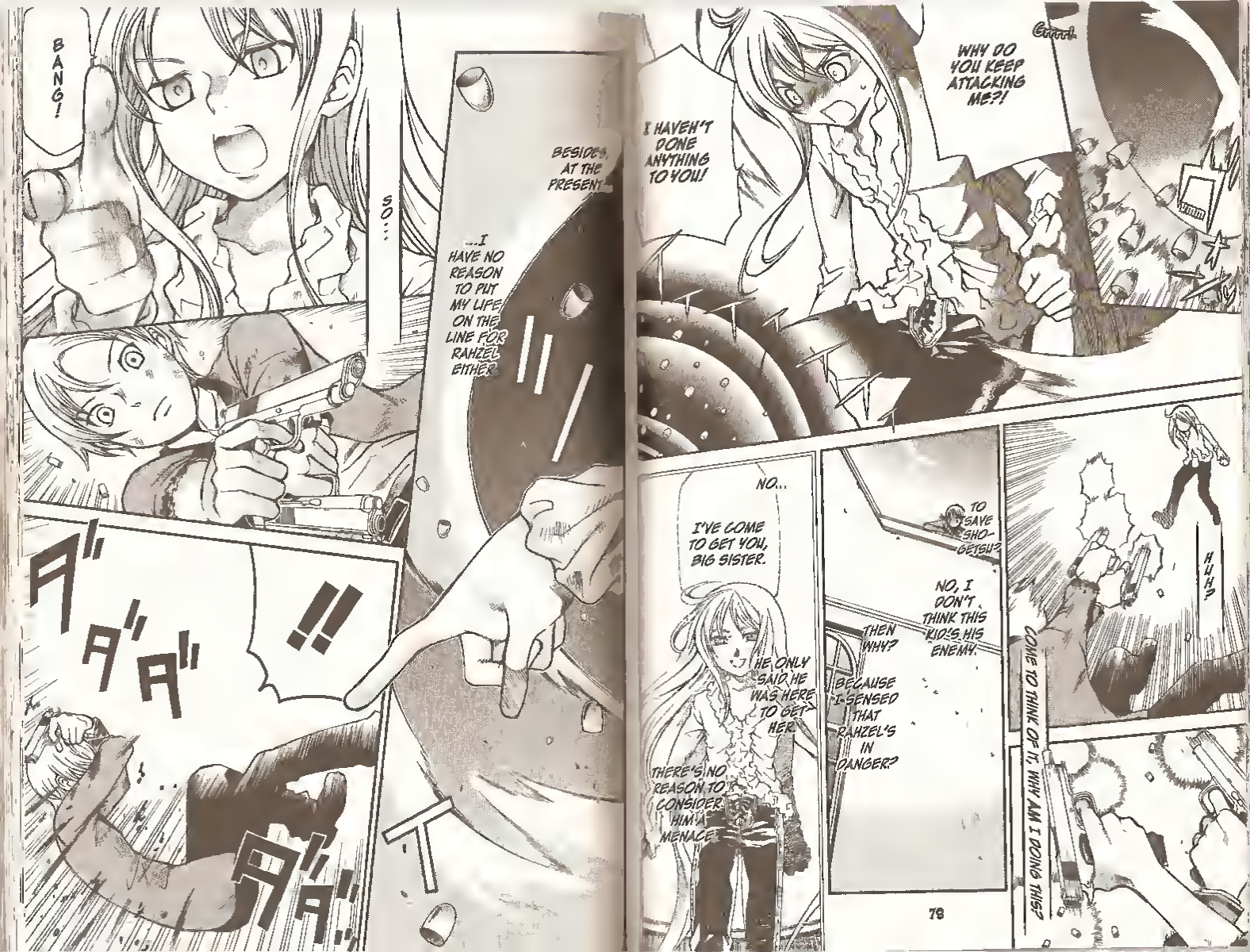

WHOA!!
uhh

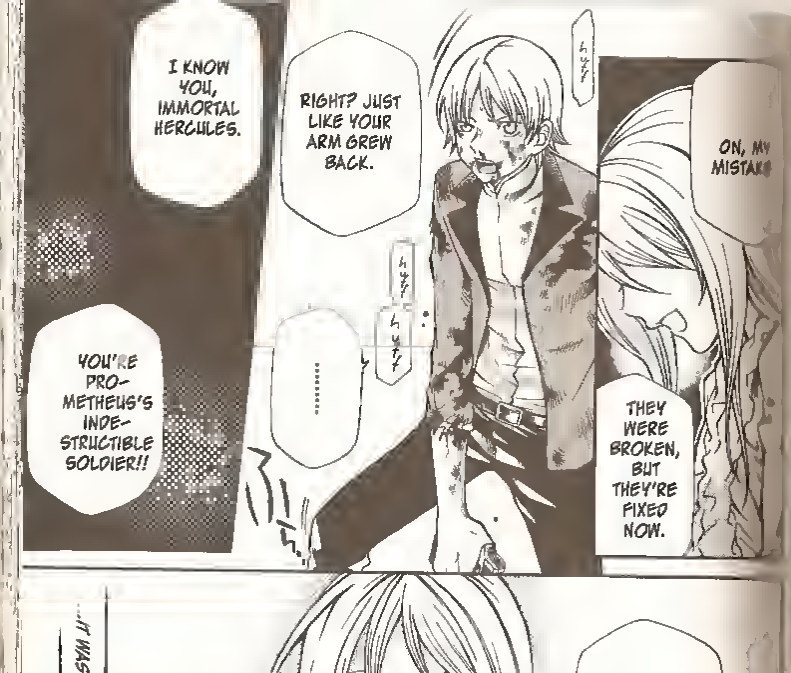

OWWW!!

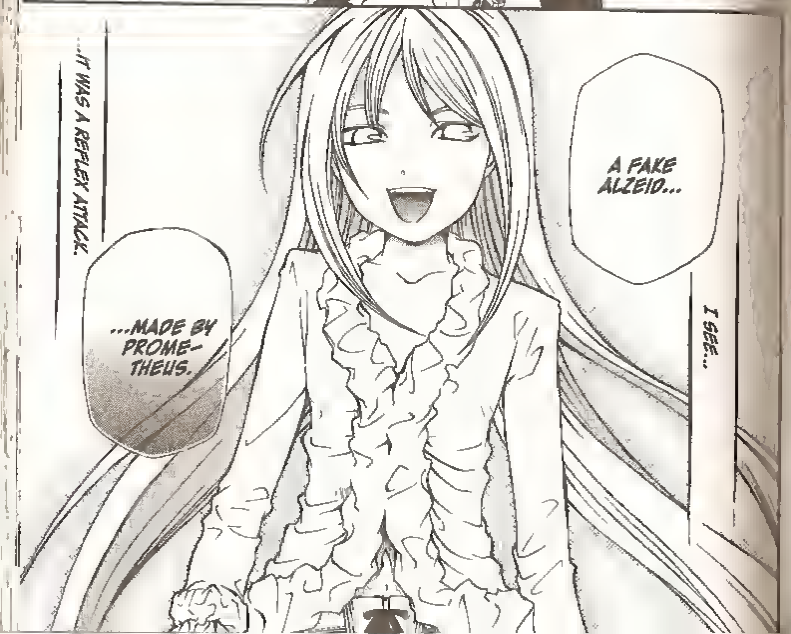
GOT HIM!
Though it was just a graze.

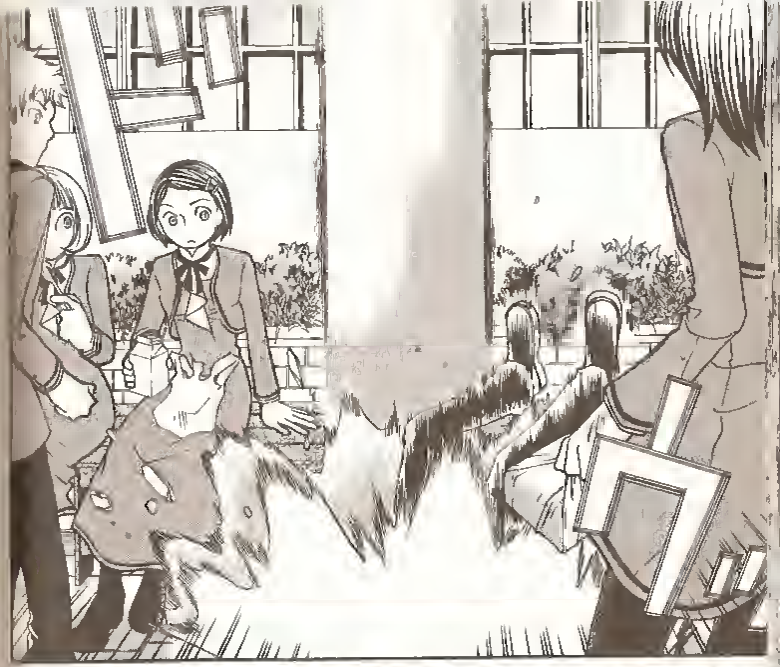


OOOPS!
Float
WHOA!
WHOA!
WHOA!
WHOA-HO-HO!
HE'S JUMPING OFF?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
cough
THIS SMOKE BURNS.
cough
cough
Hmph
MORE KNIVES?
I'M GETTING TIRED OF THEM.
yank
?!


BANG!
SO...
BESIDES, AT THE PRESENT...
...I HAVE NO REASON TO PUT MY LIFE ON THE LINE FOR RAHZEL EITHER.
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO YOU!
WHY DO YOU KEEP ATTACKING ME?!
Crash!
NO..
I'VE COME TO GET YOU, BIG SISTER.
HE ONLY SAID HE WAS HERE TO GET HER.
THERE'S NO REASON TO CONSIDER HIM A MENACE.
TO SAVE SHO-GEISU?
NO, I DON'T THINK THIS KID'S HIS ENEMY.
THEN WHY?
BECAUSE I SENSED THAT RAHZEL'S IN DANGER?
HUH?
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHY AM I DOING THIS?

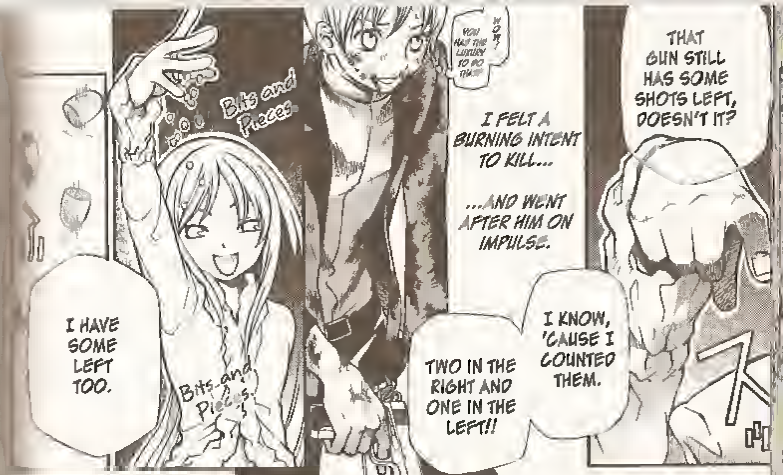

I KNOW YOU, IMMORTAL HERCULES.
RIGHT? JUST LIKE YOUR ARM GREW BACK.
YOU'RE PROMETHEUS'S INDESTRUCTIBLE SOLDIER!!
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ
……
ハァ
OH, MY MISTAKE.
THEY WERE BROKEN, BUT THEY'RE FIXED NOW.

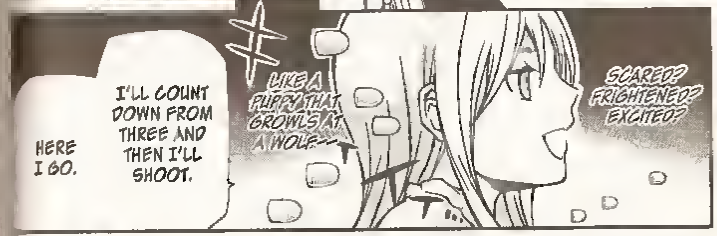

A FAKE ALZEID...
I SEE..
...IT WAS A REFLEX ATTACK.
...MADE BY PROMETHEUS.

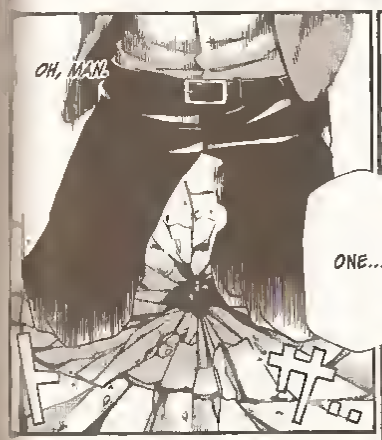


AMAZING! YOU CAN STILL MOVE?
YOUR BONES MUST ALL BE BROKEN IN PIECES.
ALL THE BONES IN BITS AND PIECES.
BITS AND PIECES. BITS AND PIECES.

IT'S BARELY SPRING. YOU GUYS ARE MAKING TOO MUCH NOISE, BANGING AROUND.
BANG!
I NEVER...
...HAD A CHANCE TO BEGIN WITH.


Bits and Pieces
I HAVE SOME LEFT TOO.
YOU HAVE THE LUXURY TO DO THAT!
I FELT A BURNING INTENT TO KILL...
...AND WENT AFTER HIM ON IMPULSE.
TWO IN THE RIGHT AND ONE IN THE LEFT!!
I KNOW, 'CAUSE I COUNTED THEM.
THAT GUN STILL HAS SOME SHOTS LEFT, DOESN'T IT?


HERE I GO.
I'LL COUNT DOWN FROM THREE AND THEN I'LL SHOOT.
LIKE A PUPPY THAT GROWLS AT A WOLF...
SCARED? FRIGHTENED? EXCITED?

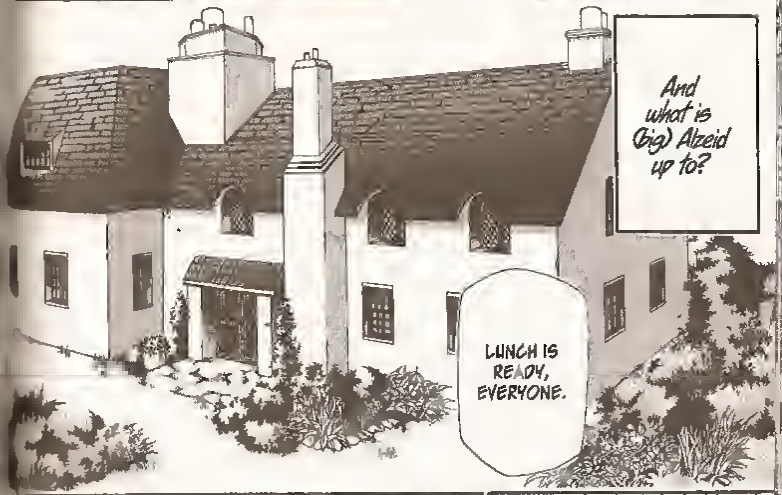

OH, MAN.

ONE...
TWO...
THREE...

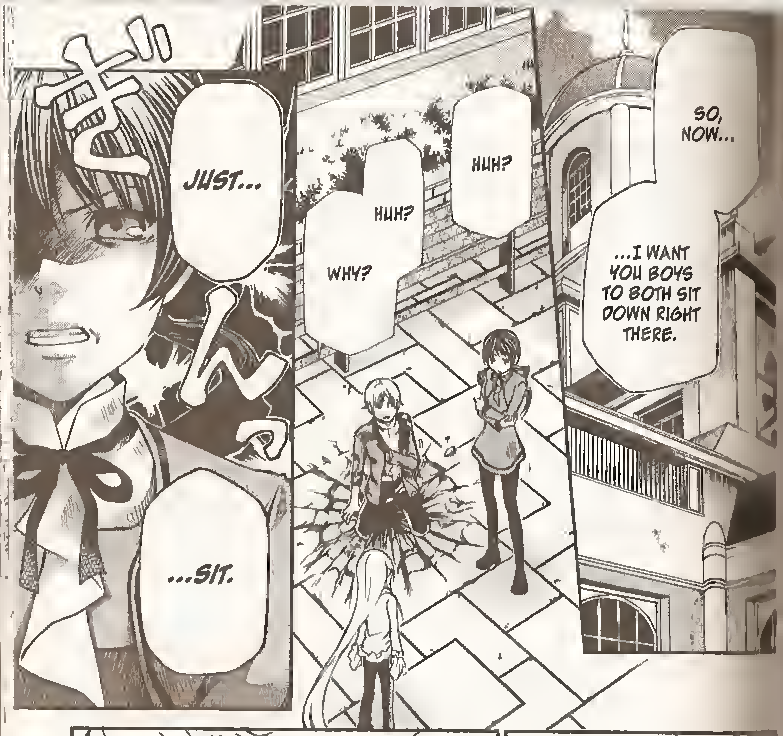
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS DANGEROUS.
DON'T GET BETWEEN US. IT'S DANGEROUS.
OUCH!
plink
plink
I HATE BEING IGNORED EVEN MORE THAN THE BLACK DEMON IN THE KITCHEN, YOU KNOW !!
FIRST OF ALL, YOU SAID SOMETHING CUTE LIKE, "I'M HERE TO GET YOU, BIG SISTER."
BUT THEN YOU COMPLETELY IGNORED ME!!
Pay attention to me!!
DON'T YOU DARE SPOIL THE SACRED LEARNING GROUND WITH BLOOD.
Humph
BIG SISTER?!

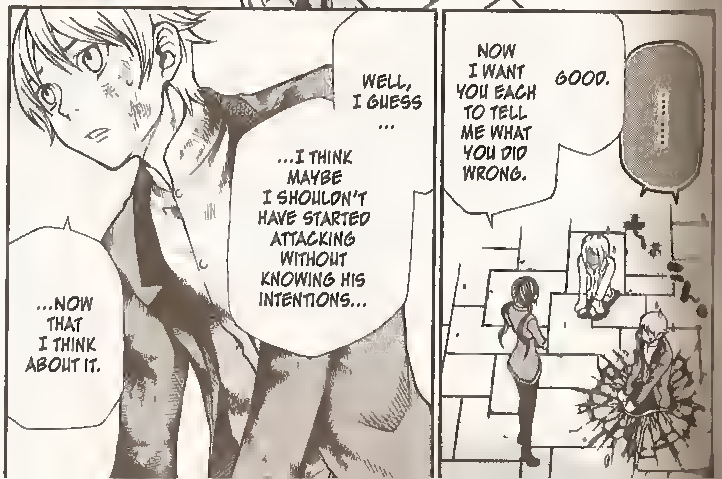
Chapter 72:
Back to the Routine
Part 6: Yet Another Sidestep
...THE SACRED LEARNING GROUND.
DON'T YOU DARE SPOIL...

OH, SORRY.
FAY, YOU DUM-MY!!
THAT IS THE POINT.
RAHZEL, I THINK THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT.

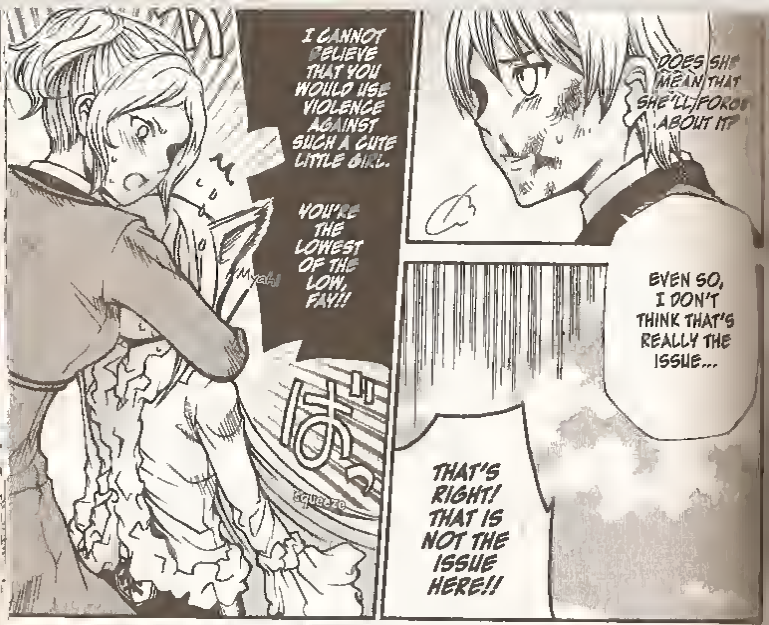

And what is (big) Alzeid up to?
LUNCH IS READY, EVERYONE.

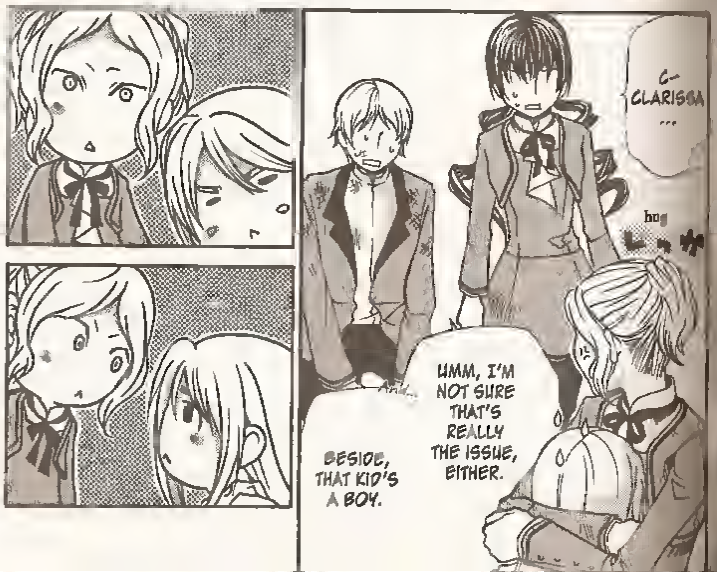
WILL YOU PASS THE SAUCE, REFYLA?
DO YOU LIKE IT, CAPTAIN?
...that he's being messed with... or not.
Almost figuring out...
.....




...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.
...I THINK MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED ATTACKING WITHOUT KNOWING HIS INTENTIONS...
WELL, I GUESS ...
NOW I WANT YOU EACH TO TELL ME WHAT YOU DID WRONG.
GOOD.

Chapter 72:
Back to the Routine
Part 6: Yet Another Sideshow


I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT YOU WOULD USE VIOLENCE AGAINST SUCH A CUTE LITTLE BIRD.
YOU'RE THE LOWEST OF THE LOW, FAY!!
DOES SHE MEAN THAT SHE'LL FORGIVE ABOUT IT?
EVEN SO, I DON'T THINK THAT'S REALLY THE ISSUE...
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE!!


C-CLARISSA...
UMM, I'M NOT SURE THAT'S REALLY THE ISSUE, EITHER.
BESIDE, THAT KID'S A BOY.

YOU HIT ME AGAIN!!
!!
YESSIREE, YOU BET I HIT YOU. CORPORAL PUNISHMENT HERE I COME.
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE HERE TO BEGIN WITH.
FIRST OF ALL, NO TRESPASSING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS!!
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU, LITTLE BOY?
YES. THAT'S NOT REALLY A GOOD THING, IS IT?
I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG--

NOT AT ALL.
COMPARED TO THAT, LITTLE THINGS LIKE YOU GUYS TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER...
YES, I AM.
YOU'RE GONNA START THERE, RAHZEL?
OH MY! THOSE AREN'T REALLY ANYTHING SERIOUS AT ALL.
...OR FAY'S ARM GETTING BLOWN OFF AND GROWING BACK...

Bad!
YOU GUYS ARE ALL OUT TO LUNCH OR SOMETHING.
OH DEAR.
YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE LITTLE BOYS CRY.
YES ... I THINK SO.
CAN YOU GET UP, FAY?
HUH? OH!
HEY! WAIT, LITTLE BOY...
whump
UMMM ...
LET GO OF ME!!
HOW CAN WE GET OUT OF THIS?!!
HOW COULD A BEAUTIFUL CHILD LIKE THIS BE A BOY?!!
YOU HERETIC!!
Waah!!
Stomp
Stomp
Stomp
I'M GOING HOME.
pout
HEY, YOU--
STUPID RAHZEL !!
I HATE YOU!!

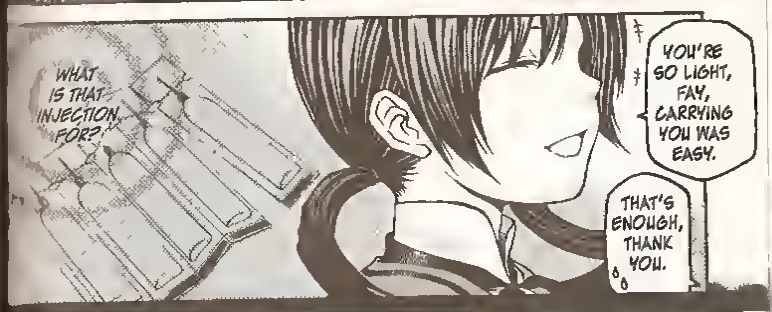
OH! YOU'RE AWAKE.
WHERE AM I?
IN THE SCHOOL NURSE'S OFFICE.
SINCE THE NURSE IS AWAY, I'M STANDING GUARD.
GUARD?
SO CAN YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN WHAT'S HAPPENING?
YES, GUARD.
BROKEN BONES DON'T COUNT AS AN INJURY
Huh?
I SIMPLY CARRIED YOU HERE AFTER YOU FAINTED. THAT'S ALL.
WHOA!! THIS IS SERIOUS!!
...I THINK.
HE FAINTED...
GET HIM OFF OF ME!
WAAAA! HE'S TOO HEAVY! I CAN'T MOVE.
WHOA?
WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO THE INFIRMARY, QUICK!

JUST A HUNCH...
IF YOU'RE SO CURIOUS, WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT DISINTERESTED, YOU KNOW.
Blush
AND ABOUT ALZEID, AND ALL KINDS OF THINGS IN PROMETHEUS, WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T ASK, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY FIND OUT...
...ABOUT THE WARRANT OFFICER AND THE IMMORTAL HERCULES UNIT HE BELONGS TO ANYWAY.
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY DARK OUTSIDE.
IS THE SCHOOL DAY OVER?

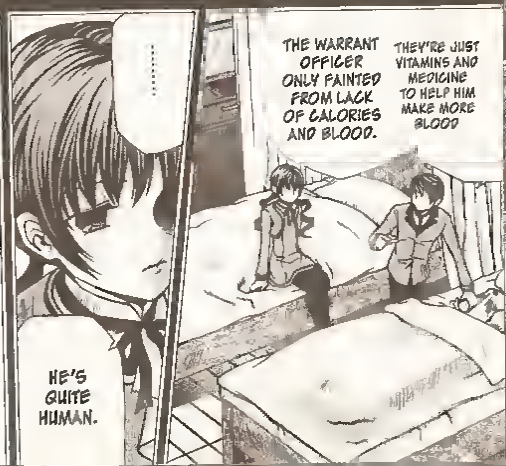
UH-HUH, IT IS.
CAN YOU GET UP?
DID YOU WORRY ABOUT ME?

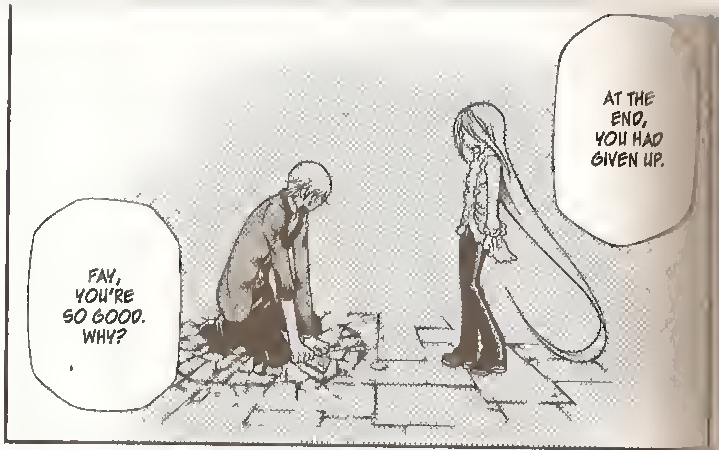
W-WELL, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TROUBLE.
YOU'RE QUITE WELCOME.

YOU CARRIED ME, RAHZEL?
Yes
I CARRIED YOU EVER SO CAREFULLY, LIKE A DELICATE PRINCESS.

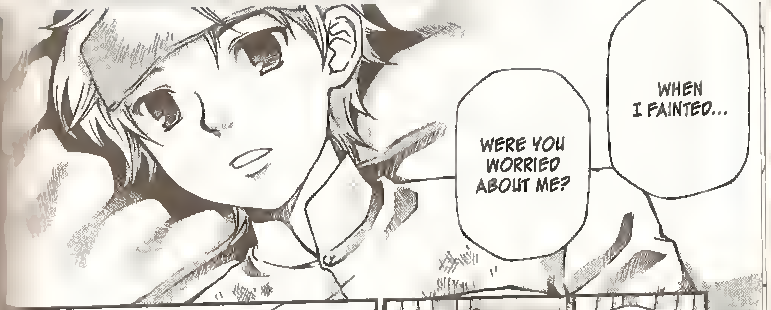

WHAT IS THAT INJECTION FOR?
YOU'RE SO LIGHT, FAY, CARRYING YOU WAS EASY.
THAT'S ENOUGH, THANK YOU.

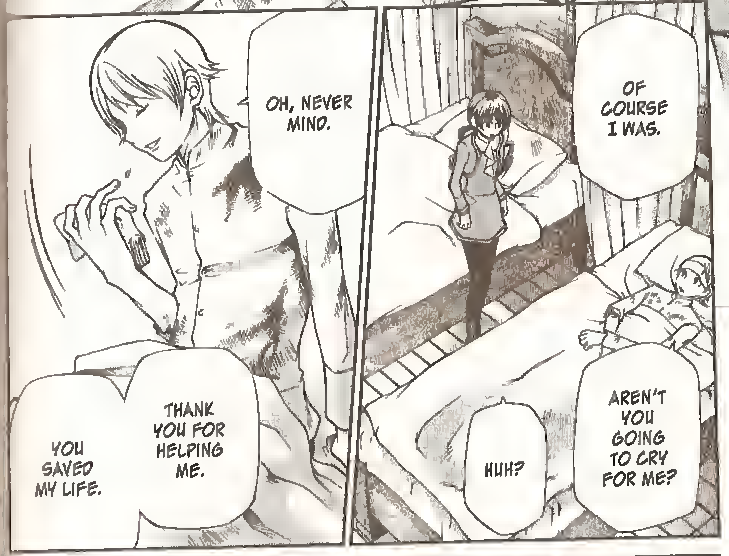
EVEN IF HIS ARM DOES REGENERATE AFTER BEING BLOWN OFF.
UNLIKE ALZEID AND BAROQUEHEAT, HE'S HUMAN.

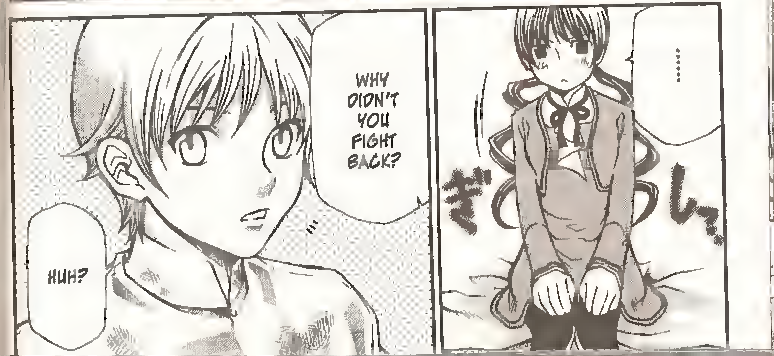

.....
THE WARRANT OFFICER ONLY FAINTED FROM LACK OF CALORIES AND BLOOD.
THEY'RE JUST VITAMINS AND MEDICINE TO HELP HIM MAKE MORE BLOOD
HE'S QUITE HUMAN.


AT THE END, YOU HAD GIVEN UP.
FAY, YOU'RE SO GOOD. WHY?

IT'S JUST THAT HE WAS SO MUCH BETTER THAN I AM.
SO, YOU'D LET HIM KILL YOU JUST LIKE THAT?
AND YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT?
ISN'T THAT WHAT'S CALLED FATE?
BUT RAHZEL THINKS THAT FATE ONLY EXISTS AFTER YOU'VE CONSIDERED ALL THE UNFORESEEABLE ELEMENTS.
UNFORE-SEEABLE...
...YOU SAY?
IT'S TOTALLY POINTLESS TO STRUGGLE AGAINST AN OPPONENT WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.
Uh oh now she's upset


WHEN I FAINTED...
WERE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?


OF COURSE I WAS.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO CRY FOR ME?
HUH?
OH, NEVER MIND.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME.
YOU SAVED MY LIFE.


WHY DIDN'T YOU FIGHT BACK?
HUH?
.....

Sukeban's homemade lunch.
I MADE A WELDING TORCH OUT OF GRAPHITE FROM A PENCIL.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT OPEN THE CAN OF MACKEREL I GOT FOR LUNCH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHOGO?!
WHAT?
I GOT THE PARTS FROM THE LAB AND THE KITCHEN.
LIFE IS SO HARD WITHOUT A CAN OPENER.
I'm sorry, Kunie.
I HAVE ONE TOO.
...BUT I HAVE A CAN OPENER.
IT'S TOUGH TO SAY THIS AFTER YOU'VE SOLVED THE PROBLEM...
Oh, no, the mackerel is burnt
THEN WHAT ABOUT HAM?
WHAT ABOUT IT?
THEN PORK!!
PARTS ARE HARDLY MORE LIKELY--
Oink
That's right!!
FOR EXAMPLE, LIGHTNING OR PIGS MIGHT FALL FROM THE SKY AND HIT YOUR OPPONENT WITH PINPOINT PRECISION.
I DON'T THINK A PIG IS GONNA COME FALLING--
OR SOMEONE LIKE ME MIGHT GET IN THE MIDDLE--
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
BY THE WAY...
YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE UP SO QUICKLY.
YOU SEE...

WELCOME HOME, MASTER.
SHOGETSU, PLEASE FORGIVE ME
SHOGE-TSUUUU!
Wow!
I HATE YOU *OTH! I'M GOING HOME!!
OH DEAR!! WAIT, SHOGETSU.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING AT MY HOUSE, ALZEID?!!
THOSE BRATS TOLD ME THIS IS THE PROPER WAY TO GREET YOU.
I MEAN, THE HONORABLE MASTERS.
.....
Uh huh
NOW HE'S POUTING.
WELL, I'M--
NO!! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ALZEID?
RAHZEL?!
SHOGETSU ASIDE...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK, RAHZEL.
?

Wha wha wha?
IS THAT SO, RAHZEL?
...YOU MUST ADDRESS HER AS MASTER AS WELL.
...BUT THAT'S ALL.
TRAIN HIM TO FIGHT AGAINST MAGIC USERS...
They say Planet Korin is shaped like an apple☆
YOU IDIOTS SHOULD ALL GO BACK TO PLANET KORIN IN A PUMPKIN CARRIAGE!!
...MA...
I CAN'T HEAR YOU.
GET HOLD OF YOURSELF, ALZEID. IT'S NOT THAT BAD.
MAST...
RAHZE...

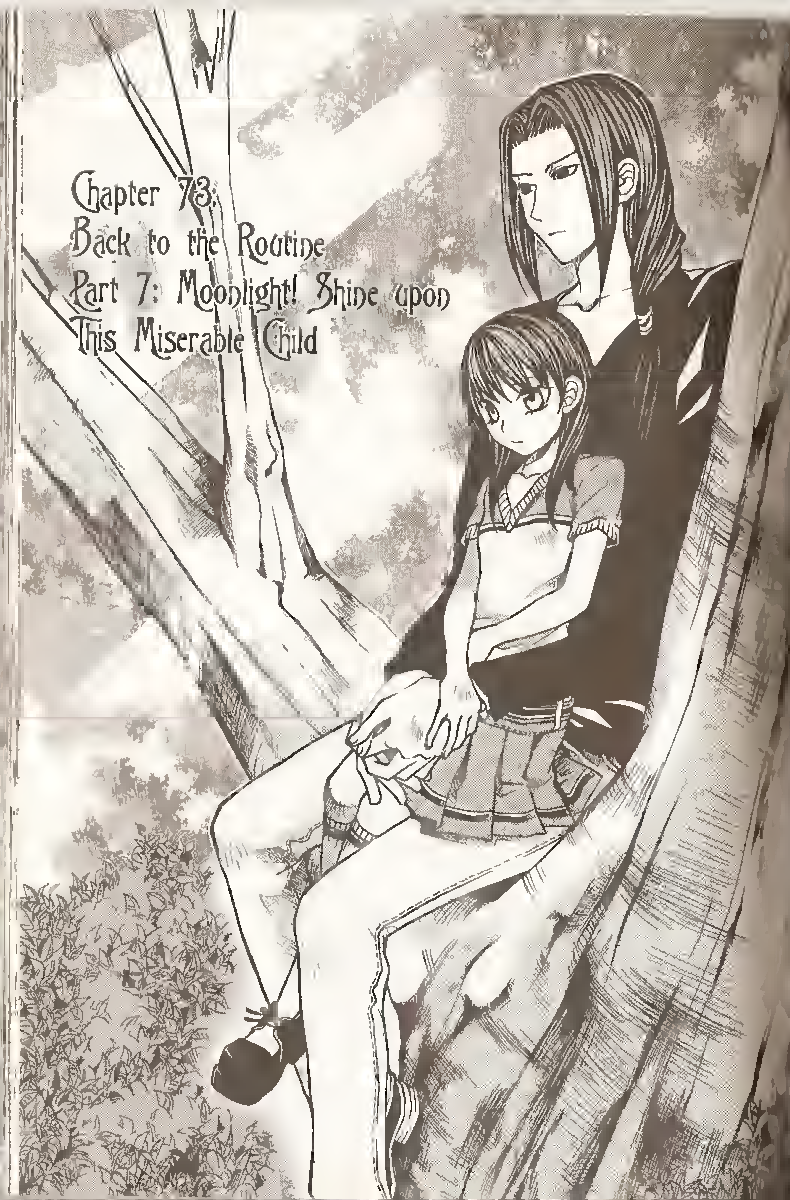
WAIT A MINUTE, ALZEID.
HOW DARE YOU TALK TO MASTER RAHZEL LIKE THAT?
HUH?!
MASTER?!
WE DECIDED JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO THAT I'M GOING TO BECOME RAHZEL'S TRAINEE.
THE MASTER OF YOUR MASTER IS LIKE A GOD, ISN'T SHE?
ALZEID ...
YOU'RE GOING TO BE MY TRAINEE, RIGHT?
step
WELL, UMM...
UH...

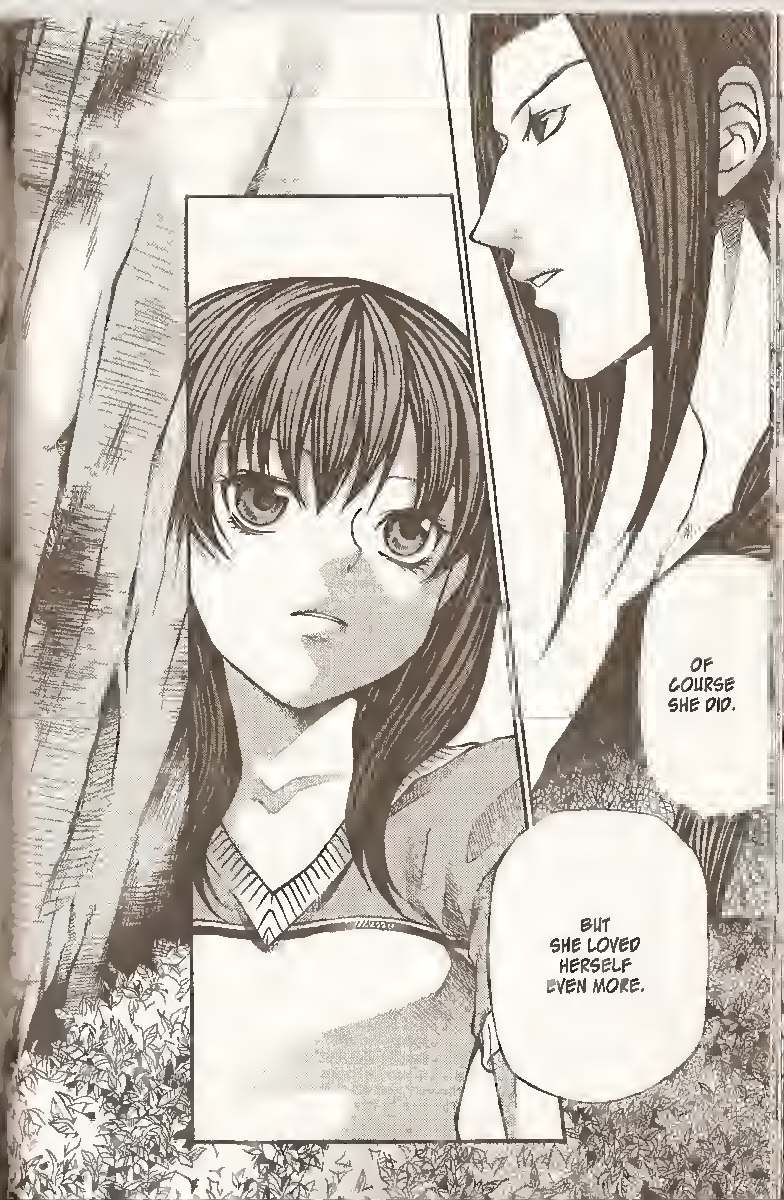
The second little one couldn't believe it.
The third little one could not move.
The fourth little one blamed himself.
And the first little one could only watch it all.

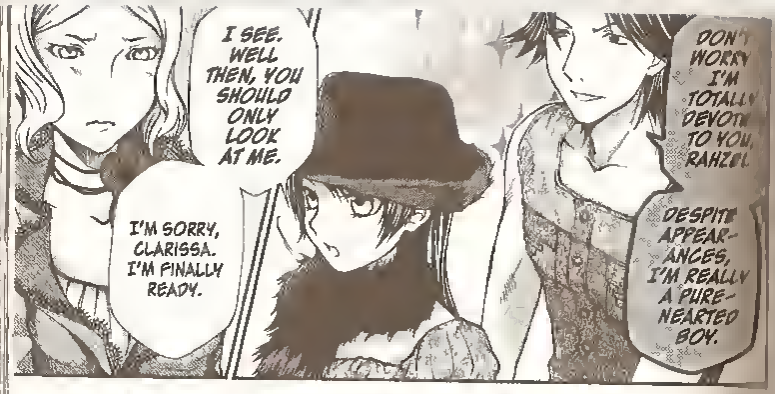
FATHER...
DIDN'T THE KEEPER LOVE THEM?

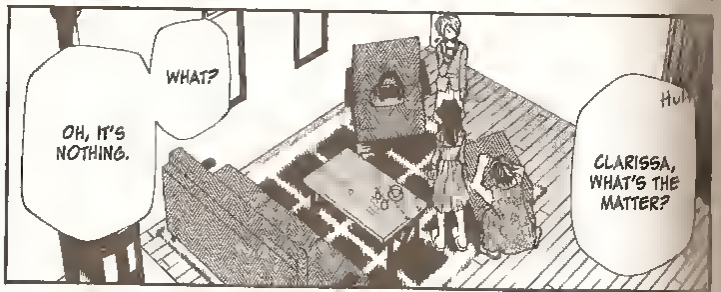
YOU JUST RAN BACK.
I DIDN'T COME RUNNING BACK.
Huh?
THEY WERE GETTING ON MY NERVES, SO I JUST RAN--
HMM...
SO, YOU CAME RUNNING BACK?
I'M NOT MAD AT YOU, ALZEID.
IN FACT, THIS WORKS OUT WELL FOR ME.
GRRR.

NOW I'VE GOT AN EVEN BETTER IDEA.

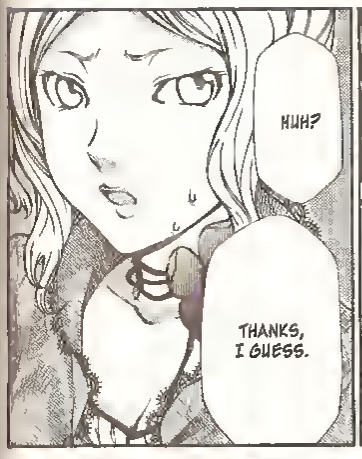

Chapter 73:
Back to the Routine
Part 7: Moonlight! Shine upon
This Miserable Child


OF COURSE SHE DID.
BUT SHE LOVED HERSELF EVEN MORE.

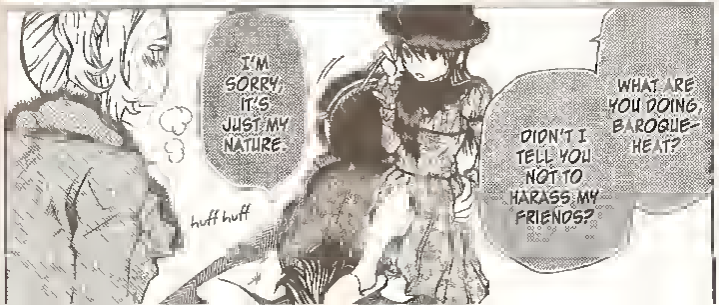

I SEE. WELL THEN, YOU SHOULD ONLY LOOK AT ME.
I'M SORRY, CLARISSA. I'M FINALLY READY.
DON'T WORRY I'M TOTALLY DEVOTED TO YOU, RAHZEL.
DESPITE APPEARANCES, I'M REALLY A PURE-HEARTED BOY.

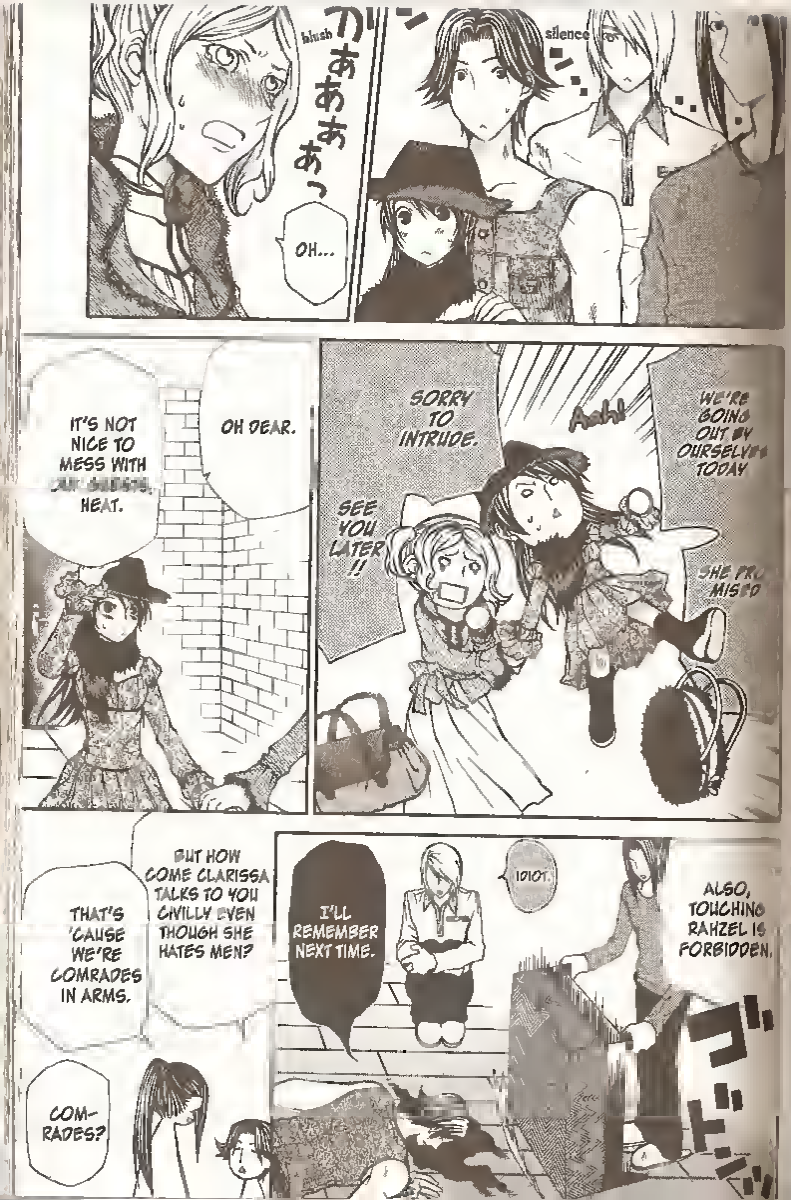

WHAT?
OH, IT'S NOTHING.
Huh
CLARISSA, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ARE THEY THE FRIENDS RAHZEL WAS TRAVELING WITH?
GOOD FOR YOU. BUT MAKE SURE YOU JUST LOOK.
OH DEAR, HEAT'S HEART WAS PIERCED BY THE ARROWS OF HER WORDS.
Listen! Listen!
"LOOK ONLY AT ME ♥," SHE SAID.
Heh heh heh ♥
STRANGE PEOPLE.

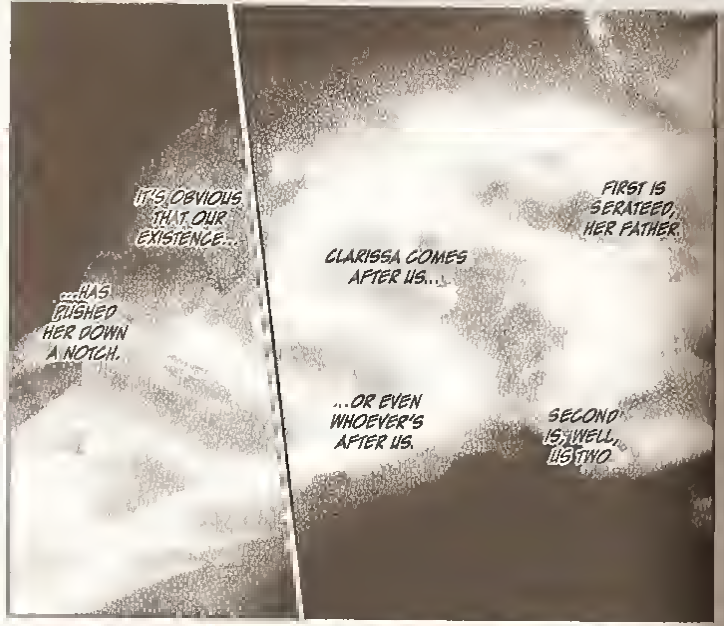

HUH?
THANKS, I GUESS.
IT'S CLARISSA, ISN'T IT?
YOU REALLY ARE A BEAUTY.
JUST LIKE RAHZEL SAID.

I DON'T LIKE MEN.
OH, THAT'S SUCH A WASTE.
DO LET ME...
UMM...
BY THE WAY, COULD YOU STOP INCHING CLOSER?


I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST MY NATURE.
huff huff
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO HARASS MY FRIENDS?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BAROQUE-HEAT?

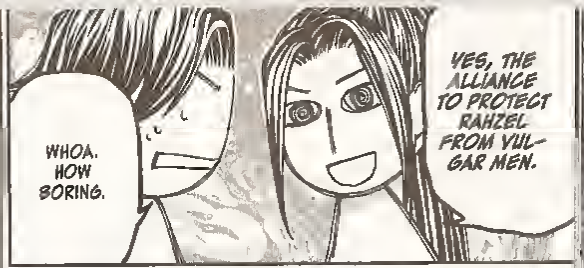

blush
silence
OH...
OH DEAR.
IT'S NOT NICE TO MESS WITH
HEAT.
SORRY TO INTRUDE.
SEE YOU LATER!!
Aah!
WE'RE GOING OUT BY OURSELVES TODAY
SHE PROMISED
BUT HOW COME CLARISSA TALKS TO YOU CIVILLY EVEN THOUGH SHE HATES MEN?
THAT'S 'CAUSE WE'RE COMRADES IN ARMS.
COM-RADES?
I'LL REMEMBER NEXT TIME.
IDIOT
ALSO, TOUCHING RAHZEL IS FORBIDDEN.

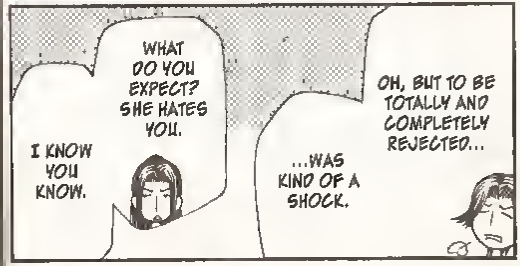
I SEE. WELL, HAVE FUN.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF RAHZEL, WILL YOU?
I REALLY HAVEN'T THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT IT, SERA.
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD JUST HANG OUT FOR A CHANGE.
RAHZEL'S BEST FRIEND
AND WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO TODAY, CLARISSA?
Aargh!
I HAVEN'T HAD MANY LINES LATELY, AND I'M SAD.
YOU MUST BE MAD
I ENVY YOU GOING OUT TO-GETHER
PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU.
Hmm...
Starting to be a little moved
NO WAY!!
I KNOW ALL THE GOOD RESTAURANTS, AND I'D GLADLY CARRY THINGS FOR YOU.
HEAT IS VERY USEFUL, YOU KNOW.

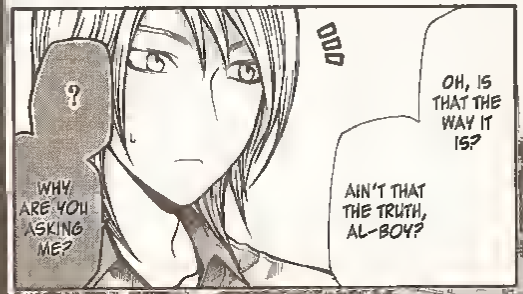

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT OUR EXISTENCE...
...HAS PUSHED HER DOWN A NOTCH.
CLARISSA COMES AFTER US...
...OR EVEN WHOEVER'S AFTER US.
FIRST IS SERATEED, HER FATHER.
SECOND IS, WELL, US TWO.

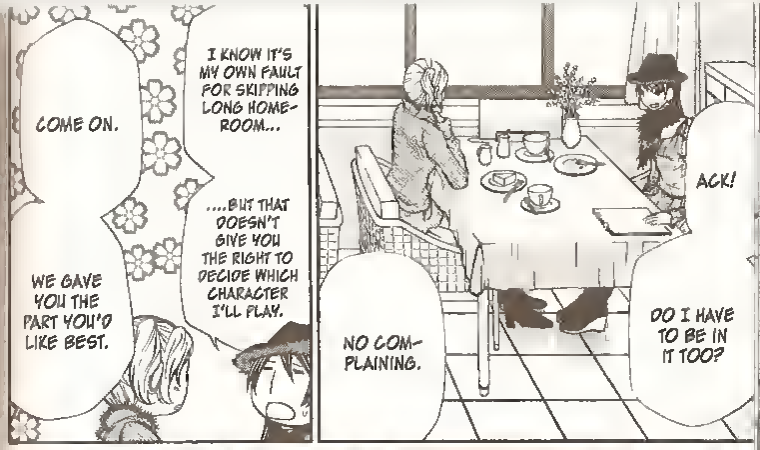
BECAUSE WE KNOW WHERE WE STAND...

...IN THE PECKING ORDER OF HER AFFECTIONS.

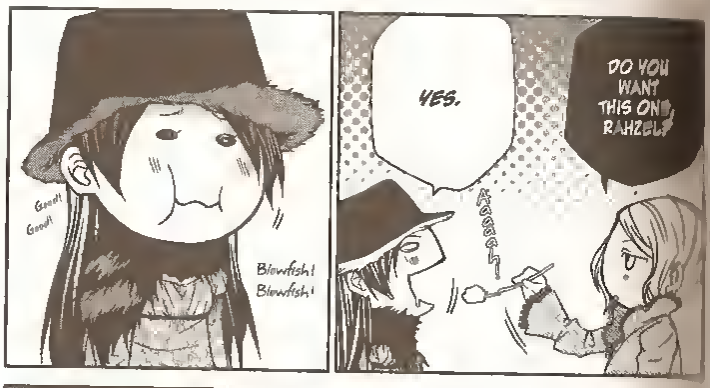




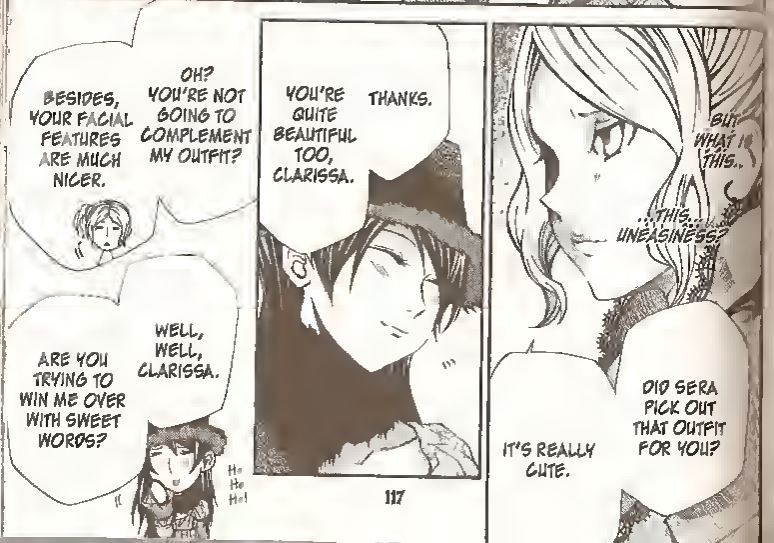


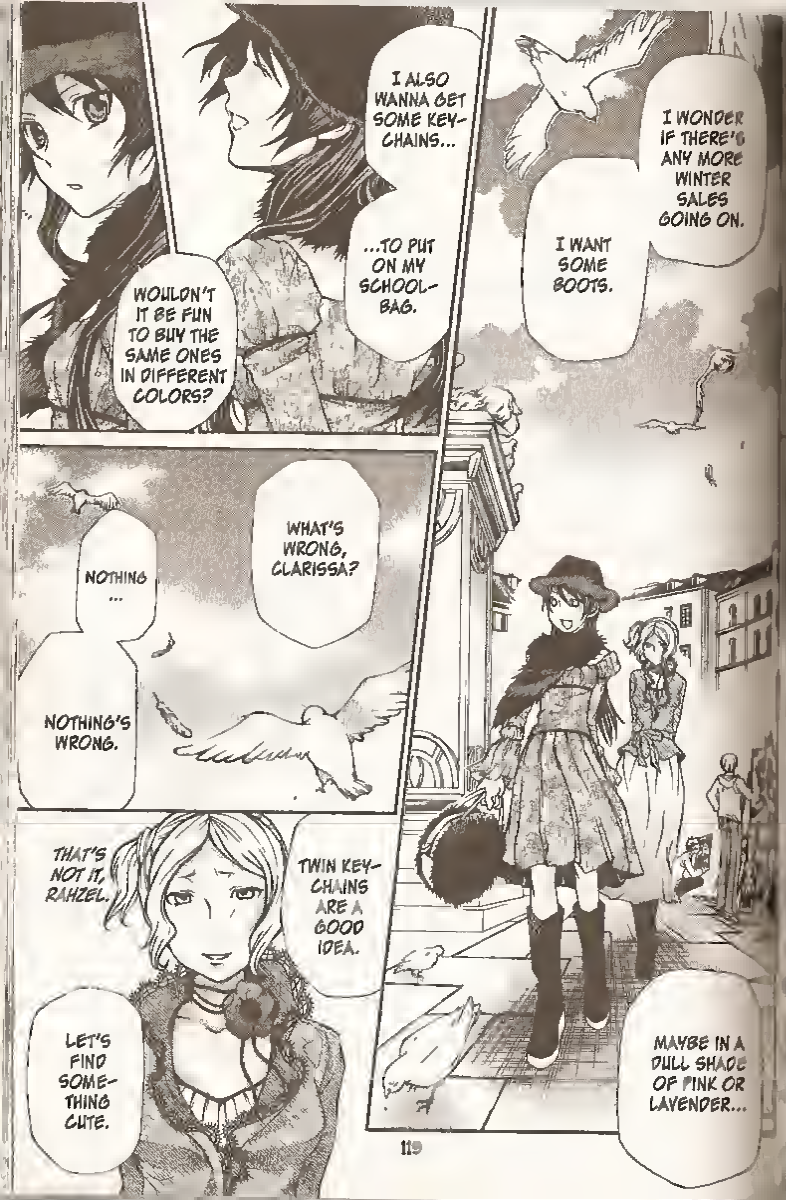

COME ON.
I KNOW IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR SKIPPING LONG HOME-ROOM...
....BUT THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHICH CHARACTER I'LL PLAY.
WE GAVE YOU THE PART YOU'D LIKE BEST.
ACK!
NO COM-PLAINING.
DO I HAVE TO BE IN IT TOO?

IT'LL BE FINE. THEY FORCED A HAPPY ENDING ON THE STORY.
BESIDES...
I DON'T LIKE THE STORY.
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
GRRRR....
WELL, I GUESS IT'LL BE OKAY.
YOU CAN READ NER FACE LIKE A BOOK. WELL, AT LEAST THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
WELL, WELL. SHE LOOKS UNHAPPY.


Gnaw! Gnaw!
Blowfish! Blowfish!
YES.
DO YOU WANT THIS ONE, RAHZEL?
Aggg!

HER SMILE IS STILL THE SAME TOO.
Delicious
What a stupid-looking face

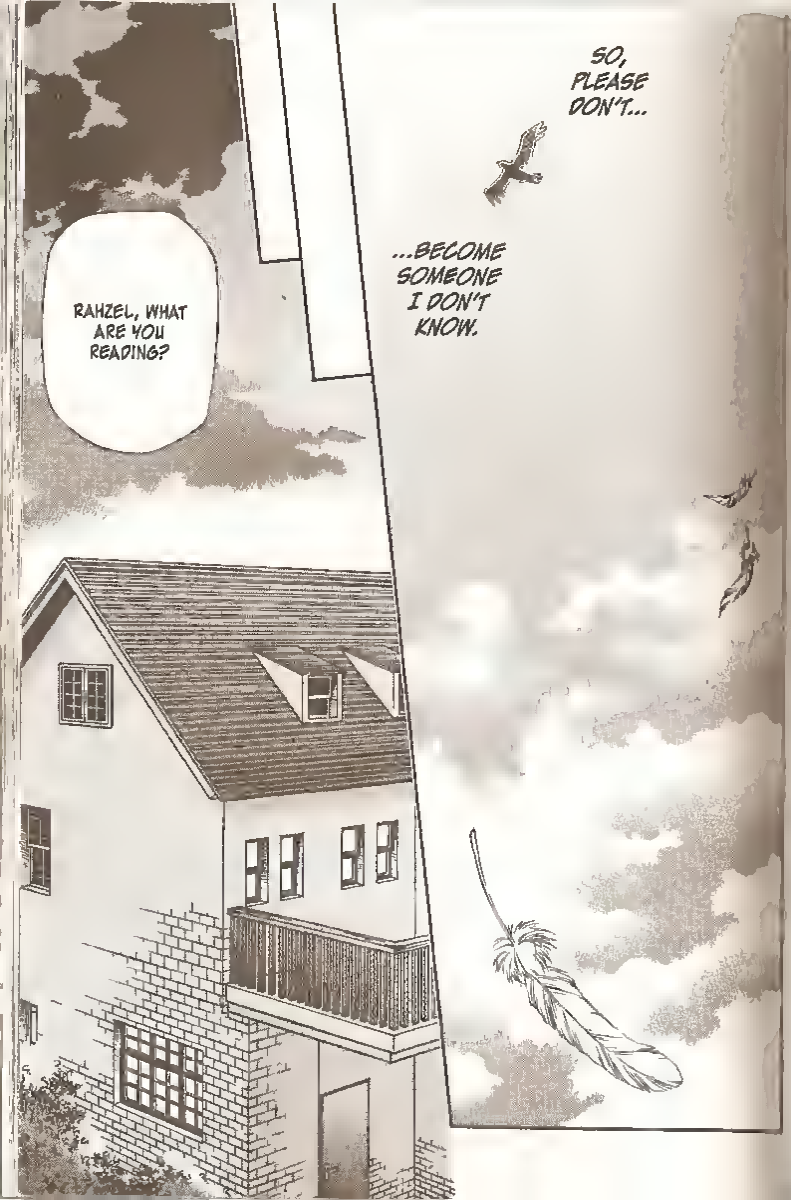

BESIDES, YOUR FACIAL FEATURES ARE MUCH NICER.
OH? YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COMPLEMENT MY OUTFIT?
ARE YOU TRYING TO WIN ME OVER WITH SWEET WORDS?
WELL, WELL, CLARISSA.
He He He!
YOU'RE QUITE BEAUTIFUL TOO, CLARISSA.
THANKS.
IT'S REALLY CUTE.
DID SERA PICK OUT THAT OUTFIT FOR YOU?
...THIS... UNEASINESS?
BUT WHAT IS THIS..

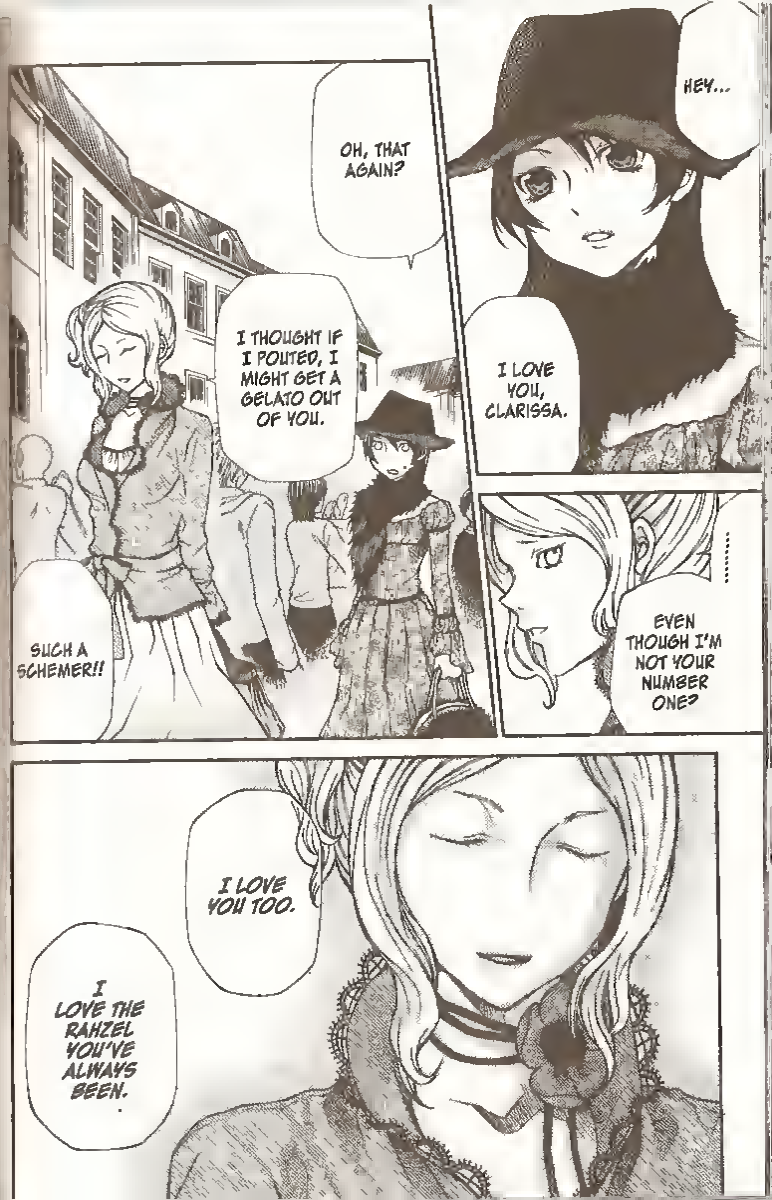

I ALSO WANNA GET SOME KEY-CHAINS...
...TO PUT ON MY SCHOOL-BAG.
WOULDN'T IT BE FUN TO BUY THE SAME ONES IN DIFFERENT COLORS?
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY MORE WINTER SALES GOING ON.
I WANT SOME BOOTS.
WHAT'S WRONG, CLARISSA?
NOTHING ...
NOTHING'S WRONG.
TWIN KEY-CHAINS ARE A GOOD IDEA.
THAT'S NOT IT, RAHZEL.
LET'S FIND SOME-THING CUTE.
MAYBE IN A DULL SHADE OF PINK OR LAVENDER...

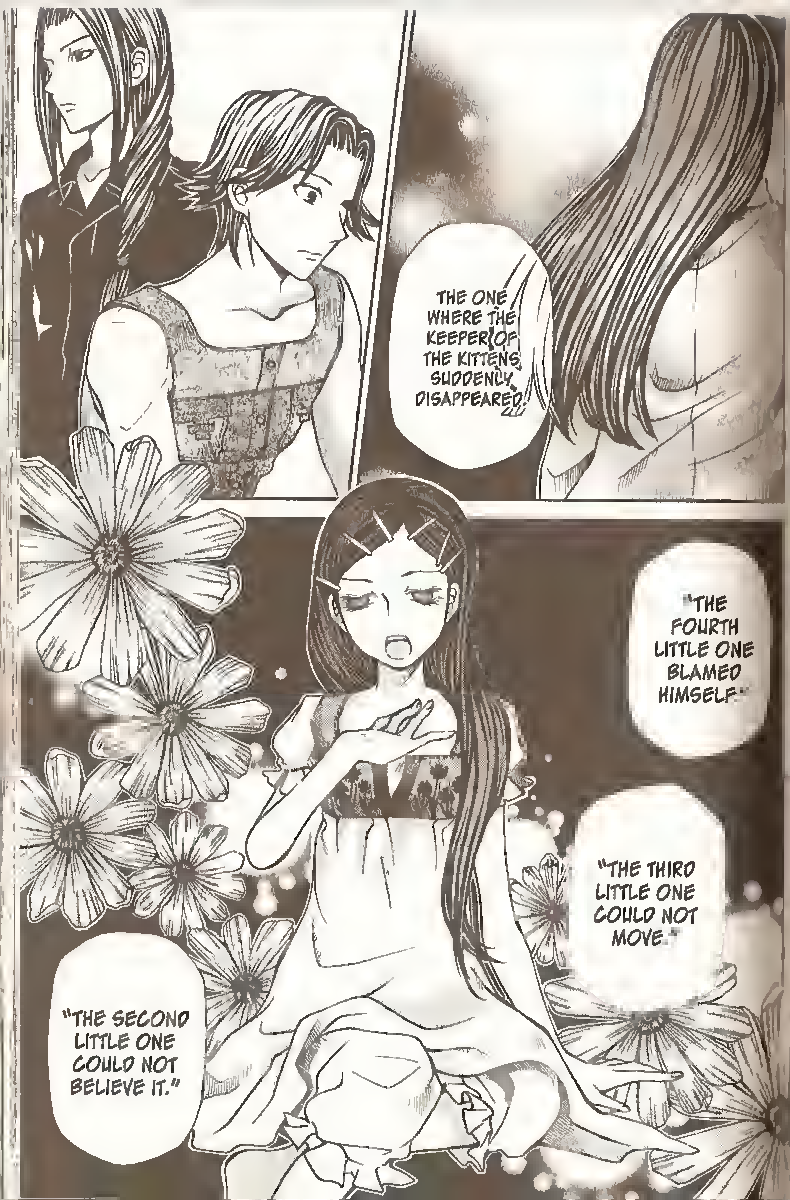
SOME-THING'S WRONG WITH RAHZEL?
MY, YOU'RE CHEAP.
THAT KIND OF FLATTERY IS ALL IT TAKES?
Ah ha ha
SO, IT IS JUST FLATTERY.
SHE'S THE SAME. JUST THE SAME...
...BUT SHE JUST SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM THE RAHZEL I KNOW.
WELL...I MEAN...I'M NOT SURE..
WHAT SHOULD I--
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HER ON HER TRAVELS.

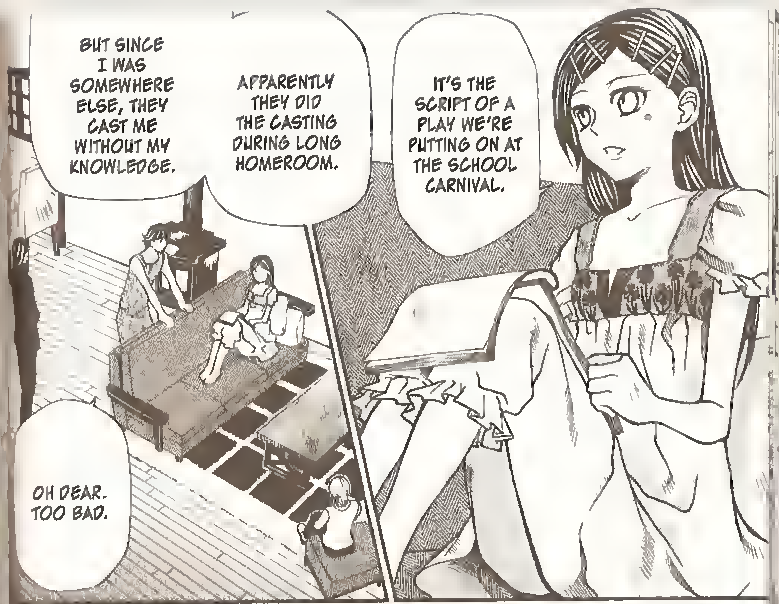
CLARISSA?
I DON'T KNOW, BECAUSE...
IT'S NOTHING.
IT WAS DARK INSIDE THE CAFÉ. I JUST NEEDED TO LET MY EYES ADJUST.
REALLY?
THAT'S GOOD.
blink
はっ?
DO YOU HAVE A HEADACHE?
YOU'VE GOT WRINKLES BETWEEN YOUR EYES.

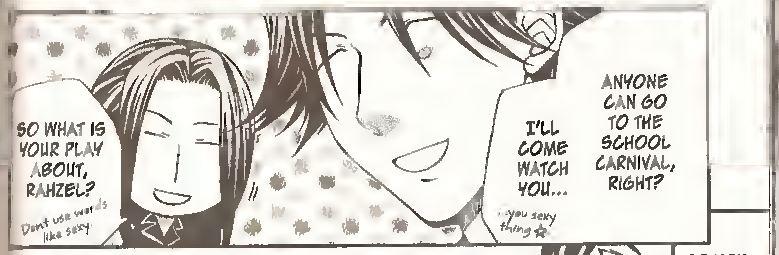
OF COURSE, I AM THINKING...
...ABOUT HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR BEST FRIEND, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE.
...IT LOOKED LIKE IT BELONGED TO A TOTAL STRANGER.
IT WAS BECAUSE YOUR BACK SEEMED SO FOREIGN--SO UNTOUCHABLE AND STRANGE...
IT WASN'T BECAUSE MR. BRYAN TOLD US TO GO...
...OR BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID.
THE REASON I LEFT YOU..
...WHILE FAY WAS FIGHTING--
YES?
AND WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO ABOUT IT?

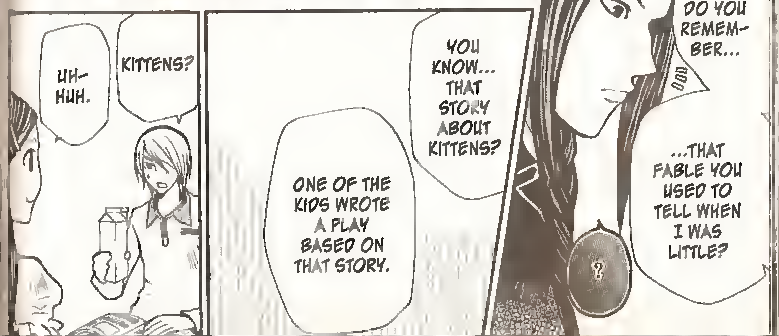

RAHZEL, WHAT ARE YOU READING?
...BECOME SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW.
SO, PLEASE DON'T...

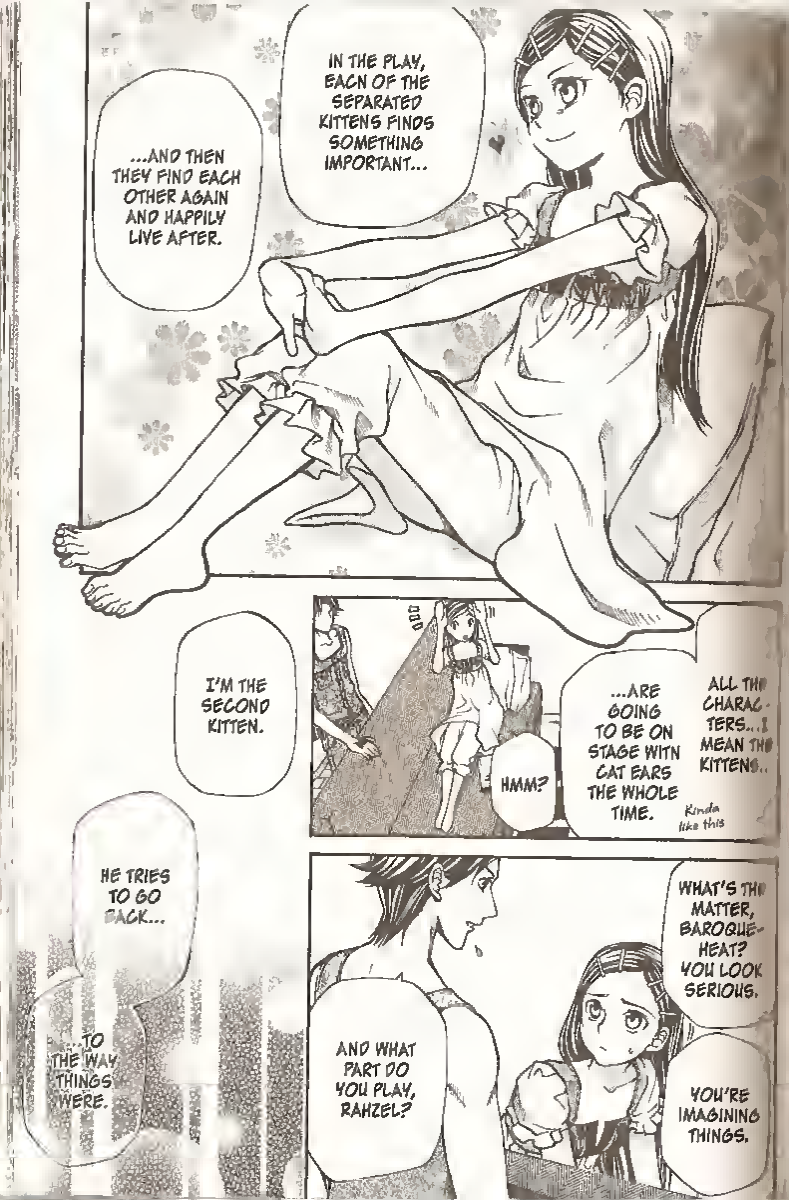

SUCH A SCHEMER!!
I THOUGHT IF I POUTED, I MIGHT GET A GELATO OUT OF YOU.
OH, THAT AGAIN?
HEY...
I LOVE YOU, CLARISSA.
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT YOUR NUMBER ONE?
I LOVE THE RAHZEL YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
I LOVE YOU TOO.

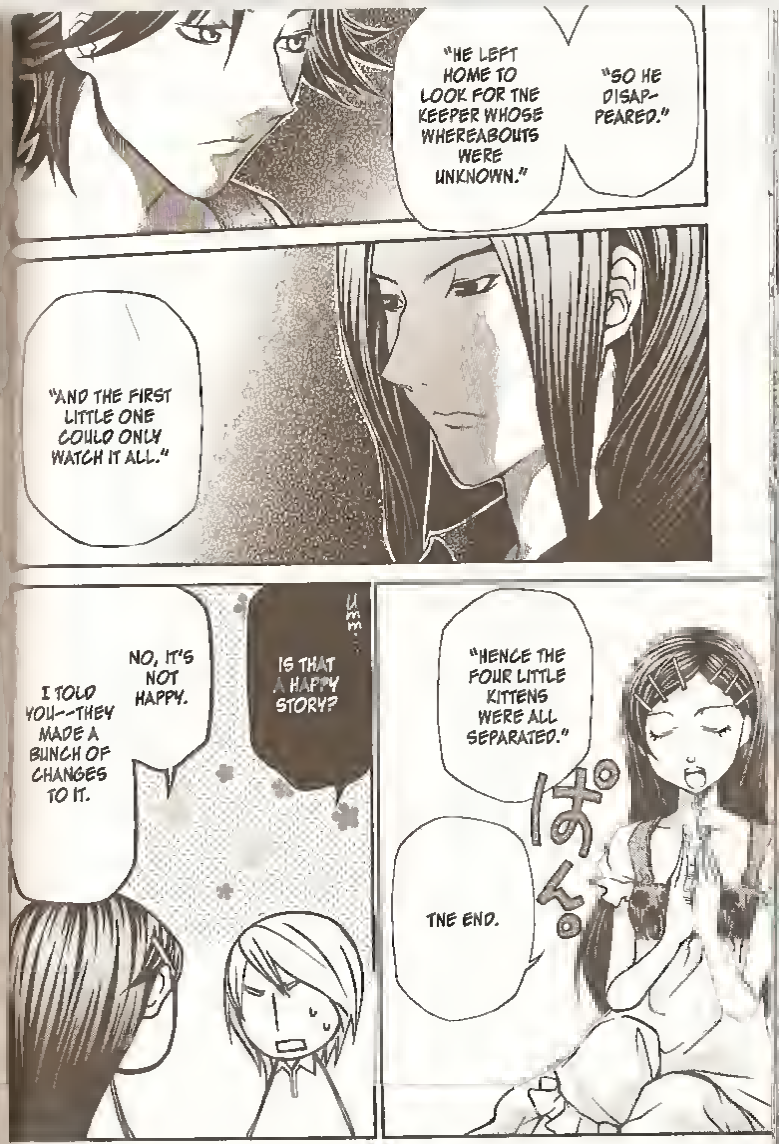

THE ONE WHERE THE KEEPER OF THE KITTENS SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED?!!
"THE FOURTH LITTLE ONE BLAMED HIMSELF."
"THE THIRD LITTLE ONE COULD NOT MOVE."
"THE SECOND LITTLE ONE COULD NOT BELIEVE IT."


BUT SINCE I WAS SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEY CAST ME WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE.
APPARENTLY THEY DID THE CASTING DURING LONG HOMEROOM.
IT'S THE SCRIPT OF A PLAY WE'RE PUTTING ON AT THE SCHOOL CARNIVAL.
OH DEAR. TOO BAD.

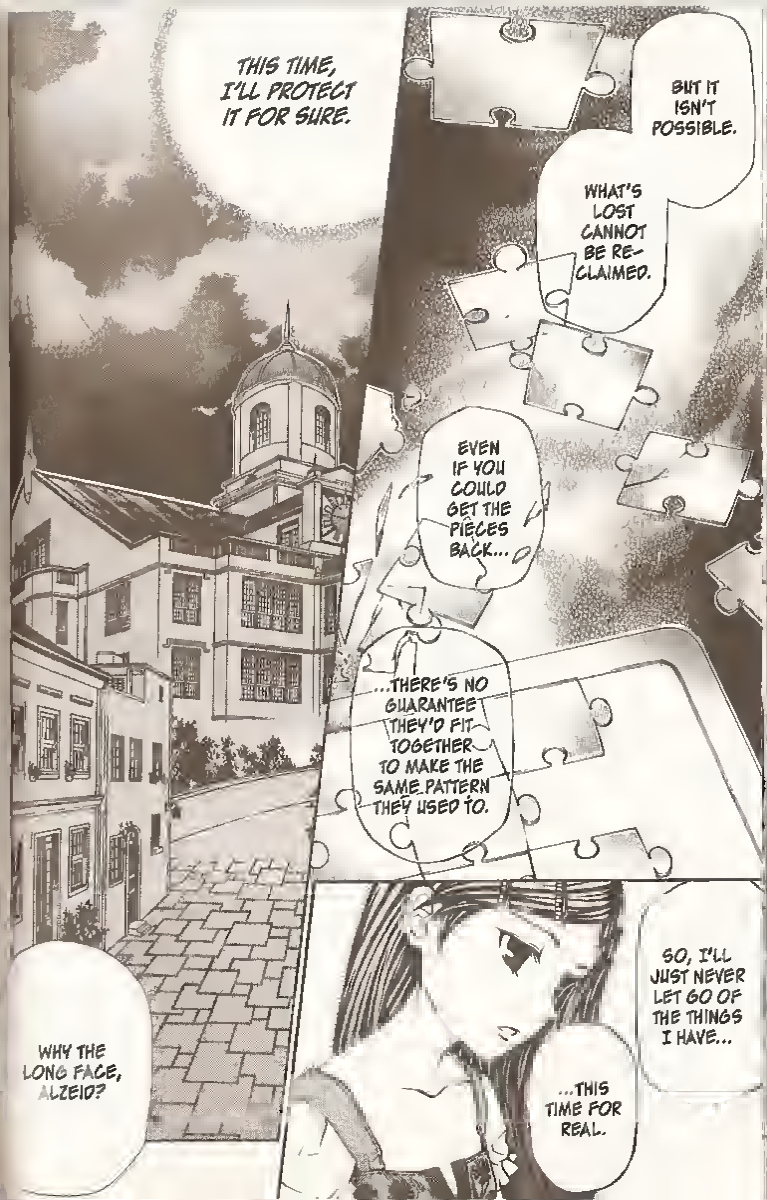

SO WHAT IS YOUR PLAY ABOUT, RAHZEL?
Dont use words like sexy
I'LL COME WATCH YOU...
...you sexy thing☆
ANYONE CAN GO TO THE SCHOOL CARNIVAL, RIGHT?


UH-HUH.
KITTENS?
ONE OF THE KIDS WROTE A PLAY BASED ON THAT STORY.
YOU KNOW... THAT STORY ABOUT KITTENS?
DO YOU REMEMBER...
...THAT FABLE YOU USED TO TELL WHEN I WAS LITTLE?


...AND THEN THEY FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN AND HAPPILY LIVE AFTER.
IN THE PLAY, EACH OF THE SEPARATED KITTENS FINDS SOMETHING IMPORTANT...
I'M THE SECOND KITTEN.
HMM?
...ARE GOING TO BE ON STAGE WITH CAT EARS THE WHOLE TIME.
ALL THE CHARACTERS...I MEAN THE KITTENS..
Kinda like this
HE TRIES TO GO BACK...
...TO THE WAY THINGS WERE.
AND WHAT PART DO YOU PLAY, RAHZEL?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BAROQUE-HEAT? YOU LOOK SERIOUS.
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.


"SO HE DISAPPEARED."
"HE LEFT HOME TO LOOK FOR THE KEEPER WHOSE WHEREABOUTS WERE UNKNOWN."
"AND THE FIRST LITTLE ONE COULD ONLY WATCH IT ALL."
UMM... IS THAT A HAPPY STORY?
NO, IT'S NOT HAPPY.
I TOLD YOU--THEY MADE A BUNCH OF CHANGES TO IT.
"HENCE THE FOUR LITTLE KITTENS WERE ALL SEPARATED."
ぽん。
THE END.

THAT'S FINE.
IF YOU WANT TO, GO AHEAD.
IF YOU DO IT, I'LL KILL YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO.
HMM?
BUT YOU WANTED TO GET IT BACK TOO
DIDN'T YOU?
NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES?
THAT'S RIGHT. AND THIS TIME I'LL PROTECT IT FOR SURE.


THIS TIME, I'LL PROTECT IT FOR SURE.
BUT IT ISN'T POSSIBLE.
WHAT'S LOST CANNOT BE RE-CLAIMED.
EVEN IF YOU COULD GET THE PIECES BACK...
...THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THEY'D FIT TOGETHER TO MAKE THE SAME PATTERN THEY USED TO.
SO, I'LL JUST NEVER LET GO OF THE THINGS I HAVE...
...THIS TIME FOR REAL.
WHY THE LONG FACE, ALZEID?

NOTE-BOOKS?
THEY LOOK PRETTY OLD.
I'M HOME, FATHER.
OH, RAHZEL ...
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU TO KNOCK WHEN THERE'S A GUEST IN THE HOUSE?
YOU COULD SEE THAT I HAD COMPANY FROM THEIR SHOES BY THE DOOR.
I'M SORRY.
WEL-COME, TO OUR HOME, SIR.
OKAY.
WHY IS SHE HERE?
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT UNIFORM BEFORE
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
I'LL DO IT. YOU GO UPSTAIRS TO YOUR ROOM.
MUST BE A SOLDIER.
WOULD YOU LIKE SWEETS TOO?
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, I'LL BE UPSTAIRS.
JUST GO, PLEASE.
BUT...
I'LL PROTECT MY PRECIOUS NORMALITY.

CUT!!
Some Kind of Kitten
ARE YOU GUYS TAKING THIS THING SERIOUSLY?
THE SHOW IS TOMORROW, YOU KNOW!!
I'M NOT FEELING ANYTHING FROM YOU GUYS
NO, NO, NO!!
I NEED TO FEEL THE PATHOS OF THE KITTENS
START FROM THE PART WHERE YOU ADD "MEOW" TO EACH SENTENCE
SHOGETSU'S GETTING ON MY NERVES, MEOW.
SORRY. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT, MEOW.
IT'S PRETTY GROSS TO HEAR GUYS MEOWING, MEOW.
HE LOOKS FUNNY, MEOW

Chapter 74: Carnival
Part 1: Somebody's Truth

IT MAY BE STRANGE FOR THE PLAYWRIGHT TO ADMIT IT...
...BUT IF THE PEOPLE FROM THE REAL STORY SAW OUR PLAY, THEY'D BE PRETTY UPSET.
YES, YES. YOU ARE TRULY GREAT.
THOUGH YOUR PRAISE MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
ISN'T IT GREAT? GIVE ME COMPLIMENTS. GIVE ME PRAISE
THOUGH YOU'RE ALWAYS A LITTLE TOO HONEST.
BUT ISN'T THIS A TRUE STORY OF SOME SORT?
HUH?
LIKE SOME MOTHER ACTUALLY LEFT HER FOUR CHILDREN AND DISAPPEARED OR SOMETHING.
I THINK THAT'S HOW THE STORY GOT STARTED.
COME ON, IT'S THE SCHOOL CARNIVAL AFTER ALL.
IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING.
IT'S REALLY A PROBLEM WHEN SOMEBODY'S OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC.
THE REHEARSALS FOR THE PLAY ARE IN THEIR FINAL STAGES.
FINALLY, TOMORROW IS THE SCHOOL CARNIVAL.
A FEW MINUTES?!
DON'T WORRY. HE MIGHT GET BORED AFTER A FEW MINUTES.
IT'S PRETTY AMAZING THAT SOMEONE COULD MAKE A PLAY SCRIPT OUT OF THAT.
IENCIA IS AMAZING.
THE FOURTH LITTLE ONE BLAMED HIMSELF.
THE THIRD LITTLE ONE COULD NOT MOVE.
THE SECOND LITTLE ONE COULD NOT BELIEVE IT.
AND THE FIRST LITTLE ONE COULD ONLY WATCH IT ALL.

THE PART SOMEBODY SHOWS YOU ISN'T ALL THAT PERSON IS.
YOU, KIARA, AND EVEN BRANOWEN WORSHIPPED HER LIKE A SAINT...
...BUT YOU NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE DARKNESS NATSUME KEPT INSIDE.
OR PERHAPS...
...YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T?
THE KITTEN STORY IS BASED ON US, ISN'T IT?
DID YOU WRITE IT BRO?
BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO MAKE UP SOMETHING SO POETIC.
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
WELL, I WONDER
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S JUST-- YOU GUYS HAVE ONLY SEEN WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE AND BELIEVED WHAT YOU WANT TO BELIEVE.
I DON'T THINK YOU KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH TO TALK ABOUT WHAT'S LIKE ME
I KNOW.
HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF YEARS HAVE WE BEEN BROTHERS?
THEN SECOND IS--
IT SEEMS THAT YOU WERE THE ONLY CLOSE FRIEND HE HAD.
WE THOUGHT IT'D BE MOST APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO HAVE THEM.
THESE ARE SECOND'S DIARIES.
IN FACT, HE HASN'T BEEN SEEN IN ALMOST TEN YEARS.
...BUT FROM THE STATE OF HIS LAB, WE'RE ALMOST CERTAIN.
HIS BODY HAS NOT BEEN FOUND...
YOU SHOULD KNOCK BEFORE ENTERING MY ROOM.
SORRY.
HEAT...
11°
ぎし

Chapter 75: Carnival
Part 2: The Sun Won't Rise

FATHER?
WHAT'S WRONG, FATHER?
DOES SOMETHING HURT?
FATHER?

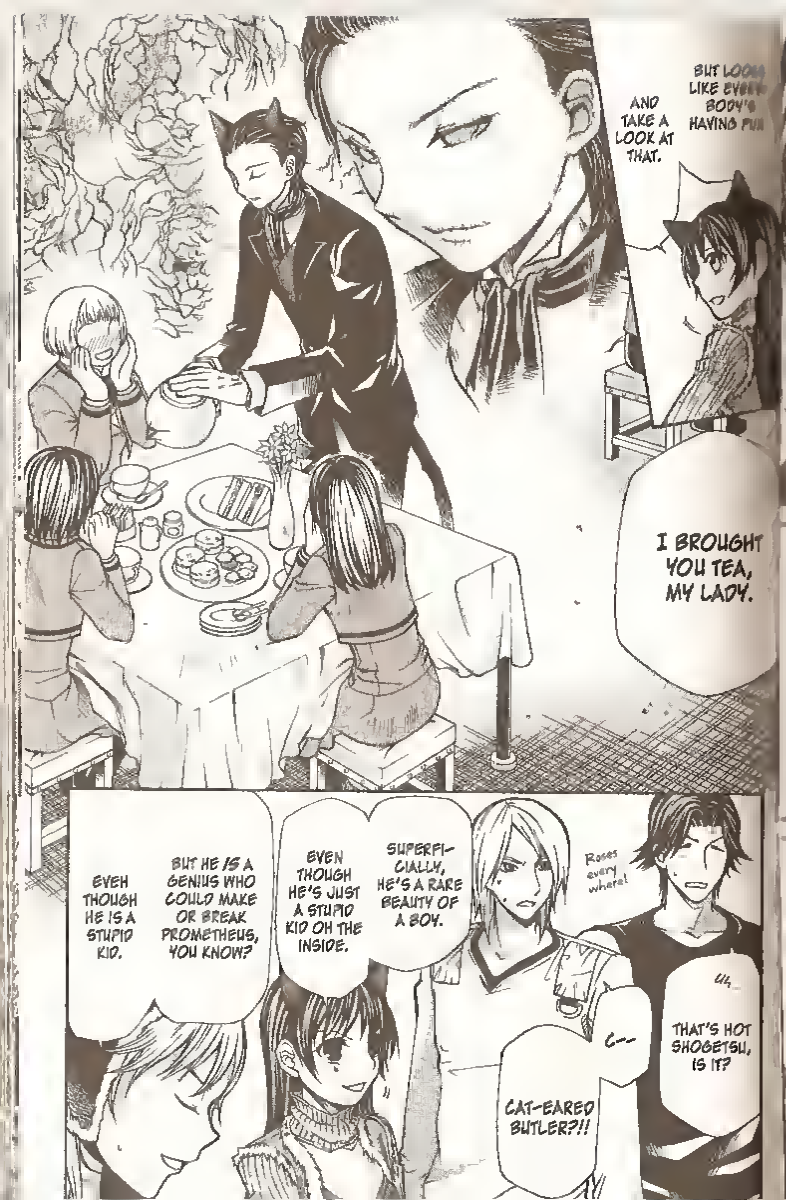
UNTIL THE DAY...
WE LOST NATSUME NO SECOND FOREVER.
FATHER...
DINNER IS READY.
NEVER MIND.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. GO AHEAD AND EAT.
BUT YOU DIDN'T HAVE LUNCH EITHER.
I'M SORRY, RAHZEL.
C'MERE.
WHAT?

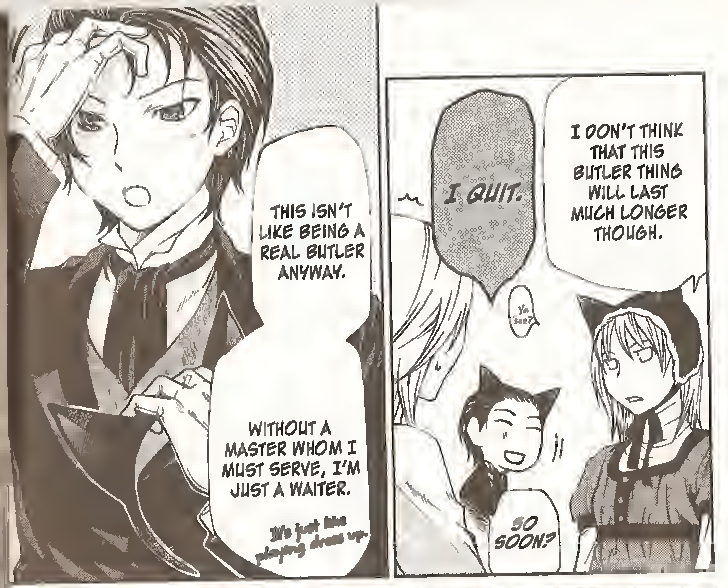
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU MIGHT CATCH COLD.
1-D
The Fort of
I'M SORRY
BUT ISN'T YOUR OUTFIT PRETTY SUGGESTIVE? EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT YOU.
IT'S A COSTUME FOR THE PLAY.
OF COURSE NOT.
HMM...
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH FATHER?
FATHER'S NOT WITH YOU?
NO.
HE SAID HE'D COME LATER.
EVERYBODY, PLEASE FORM TWO LINES.
DUE TO UNEXPECTED NUMBERS OF CUSTOMERS, WE ARE LIMITING EACH VISIT TO 20 MINUTES!!
CURRENT WAIT TIME IS ABOUT TEN MINUTES.
THAT'S GREAT!
ARE YOU FREE RIGHT NOW?
OR WHAT TIME DO YOU GET OFF?
I'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU SHOW ME AROUND.
YOU DUMB-ASS!!
RAHZEL.
I TOLD YOU TO COME SEE ME FIRST WHEN YOU GOT HERE, DIDN'T I?
SO, YOU'RE BOTH SECOND-YEARS?
Really?
YOU LOOK A LOT OLDER.
Lightning Strand

BUT WHY DID YOU ADD ANOTHER EVENT?
ISN'T YOUR CLASS PUTTING ON A SHOW TOO, RAHZEL?
WELL, WE CAN'T MAKE MONEY WITH A SHOW.
?
PLEASE WAIT HERE TIL YOUR TABLE IS READY.
P--
P--
Blush
Ace
DO YOU GET A PRIZE OR SOME-THING?
THEY DECIDED TO HAVE THE CLASSES COMPETE.
THE ONE THAT MAKES THE MOST PROFIT WINS.
THERE'S NO PRIZE MONEY, BUT THERE IS A PENALTY.
HUH?
Honor Student with scissors
WHEN DID YOU GET A SEX CHANGE, MASTER?
I'M NOT FAY! YOU MUST BE THINKING ABOUT SOME-BODY ELSE!!
WARRANT OFFI-CER?
HOW NATURAL YOU LOOK.

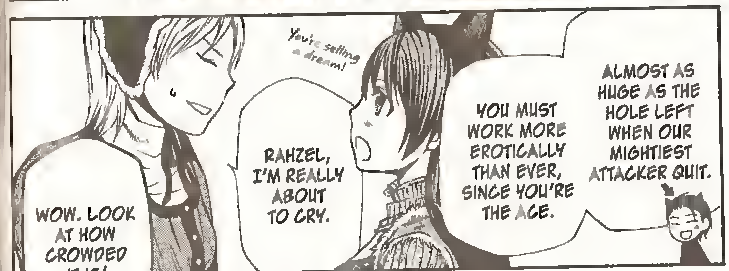
WELCOME.
TO 3-B'S OPEN AIR CAT EAR CAFÉ!!
MAYBE GOING AROUND THE SCHOOL WITH A SIGN WORKED!
Whoa.
IS THIS WHAT YOUR CLASS IS DOING?
WHAT'S THIS LINE FOR?
OH NO, I'M NOT NEARLY AS ATTRACTIVE AS THE ACE OF OUR CLASS.
Ah ha ha ha
THAT'S THE TRUTH.
WELCOME.
GOOD GIRL!!
Praise me
WELL DONE!!
I MOST CERTAINLY DID.
NO! YOU DIDN'T GO AROUND IN THAT, DID YOU RAHZEL?!

AAAAH!
O--
OPEN WIDE!
ANYWAY...
ISN'T THIS A LITTLE SICK?
ARE YOU SURE CAFÉ IS THE RIGHT WORD?
THERE'S A SEPARATE CHARGE FOR "OPEN WIDE! ♡"
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH, IT'S SOOO GOOD ♡♡♡
Mmm! ぱくぱく
I WANT TO GO HOME NOW.
You don't win by going halfway
OH FEAR... CLARISSA IS INCAPACITATED
IF WE CAN CHALK UP OUR [illegible] SERVICE TO OVERZEALOUS MISCHIEF BY STUDENTS, WE CAN DUCK THE X-RATING!!
THE MOTTO OF 3-B IS DELICIOUS FOOD AND ADDICTIVE SERVICE!!
Put to your heart's content
THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY.
WE CAN'T LOSE TO 3-C'S REAL CAT CAFÉ.
WE MUST PROTECT THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN KIND!!
Though I went too
THE CLASS THAT DOES THE WORST HAS TO CLEAN FOR THE WINNING CLASS.
HAVE TO CLEAN UP AFTER THE SCHOOL CARNIVAL, NATURALLY ...
AND THEN IT'LL GO ON FOR A WHOLE YEAR! THEY'LL HAVE TO CLEAN THE CLASSROOM PLUS ALL THE ASSIGNED AREAS LIKE THE HALLWAYS AND SPECIAL CLASSROOMS.
HENCE, TO LOSE IS TO DIE!!
...I SHALL RELUCTANTLY GO ALONG WITH IT.
SINCE IF I CAN WITHSTAND THIS SHAME, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO INCREASE MY EVENING TRAINING TIME...
HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF THE PERSON IN QUESTION?
Sorry our little dummy is causing trouble
MAYBE YOU CAN PRETEND YOUR HAND SLIPPED AND KILL IT.
YOU CAN'T BE BLAMED FOR A TRAINING ACCIDENT.
AN UNWANTED THING COMES BY EVERY MORNING, SO I JUST CAN'T CONCENTRATE THEN.
I WISH IT WOULD JUST DIE SOON.

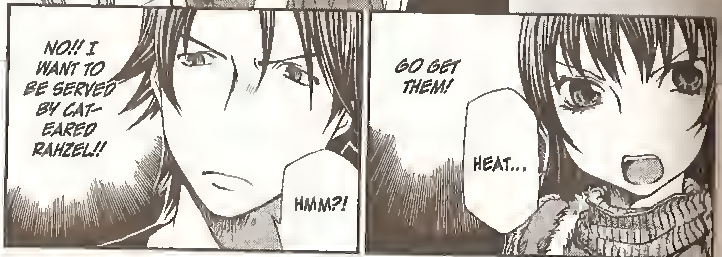

I BROUGHT YOU TEA, MY LADY.
AND TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.
BUT LOOKS LIKE EVERYBODY'S HAVING FUN
BUT THEN WOULDN'T SOME KIDS CHEAT BY SLIPPING SOME OF THEIR OWN MONEY INTO THE PROFITS?
THINK ABOUT IT, HEAT.
OH, I'VE GOT A SUGGESTION TO FIX THAT.
BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE BUDGET FOR IT
WE WANT TO UPGRADE THE HEATING SYSTEM IN THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE
My own brother— involved in such a scheme!
THEY'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STUDENTS TO MAKE MONEY?
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOOL BOARD ASKED HIM FOR ADVICE ON MONEY MATTERS.
DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT FATHER'S THE ONE PULLING THE STRINGS.
whisper
THAT'S JUST WHAT WE WANT.
WE WERE PRETTY SCARED AT FIRST.
SO, WE WERE ALLOWED TO DO TWO EVENTS AND USE THIS TERRACE.
SERATED?
THEY THINK THEY'RE BEATING THE SYSTEM, BUT THEY'RE JUST BEING MANIPULATED FROM BEHIND THE SCENES.
CHILDREN ARE SO CUTE.
.....
EVEN THOUGH HE IS A STUPID KID.
BUT HE IS A GENIUS WHO COULD MAKE OR BREAK PROMETHEUS, YOU KNOW?
EVEN THOUGH HE'S JUST A STUPID KID ON THE INSIDE.
SUPERFICIALLY, HE'S A RARE BEAUTY OF A BOY.
Roses everywhere!
CAT-EARED BUTLER?!!
C--
UH,
THAT'S HOT SHOGETSU, IS IT?

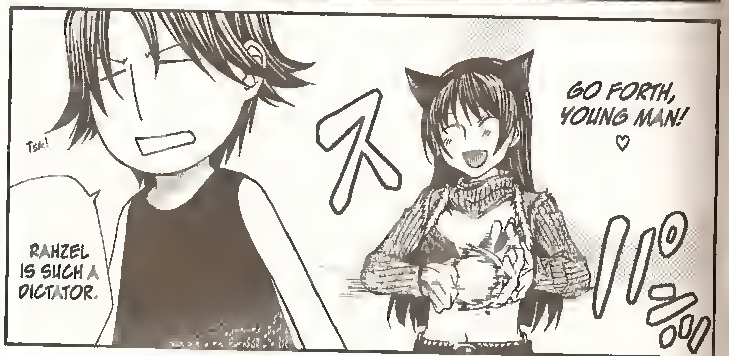

THIS ISN'T LIKE BEING A REAL BUTLER ANYWAY.
WITHOUT A MASTER WHOM I MUST SERVE, I'M JUST A WAITER.
I DON'T THINK THAT THIS BUTLER THING WILL LAST MUCH LONGER THOUGH.
I QUIT.
SO SOON?

THE FANTASY ELEMENT IS A HUGE PART OF WHY THOSE CLUBS EXIST.
IN A WAY, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TOTAL AFFIRMATION.
...THE RAISON D'ÊTRE OF MAIDS AND BUTLERS IN MAID CAFÉS AND BUTLER CAFÉS.
HE JUST DENIED...

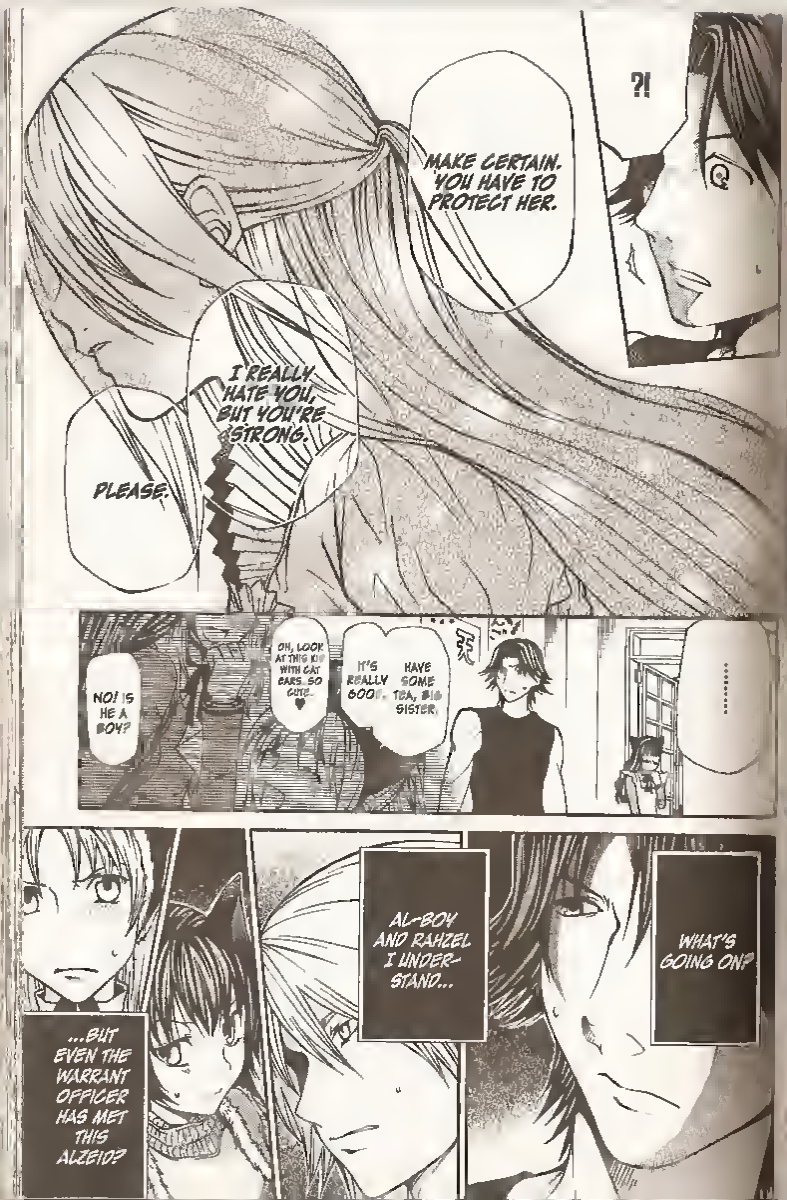

WOW. LOOK AT HOW CROWDED IT IS!
RAHZEL, I'M REALLY ABOUT TO CRY.
YOU MUST WORK MORE EROTICALLY THAN EVER, SINCE YOU'RE THE ACE.
ALMOST AS HUGE AS THE HOLE LEFT WHEN OUR MIGHTIEST ATTACKER QUIT.

LET'S GO.
I DON'T WANT TO STAND IN LINE.


NO!! I WANT TO BE SERVED BY CAT-EARED RAHZEL!!
HMM?!
GO GET THEM!
HEAT...


RAHZEL IS SUCH A DICTATOR.
GO FORTH, YOUNG MAN!

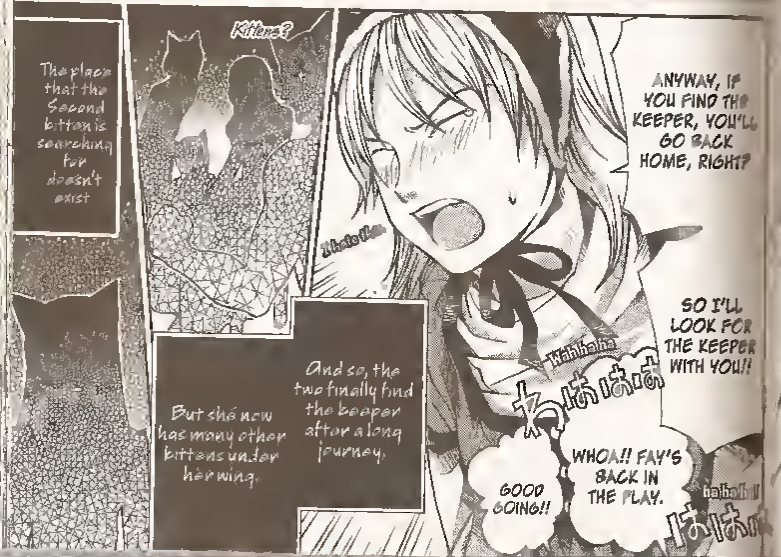
Ta-Da!
ぽんっ
WON'T YOU HAVE A CUP OF TEA WITH ME?
HUH?
HOLD ON, YOU TWO!
YOU'RE SO MONEY-GRUBBING TODAY, RAHZEL.
I don't know about normally.
HE'S SUCH A MONEY-MAKING MACHINE.
Yes!
THE MAN KNOWS MAGIC TOO?
I'm going to ask him how later.
Ooooo!
THAT'S SO COOL!
MAGIC?!
THAT KID WAS--
Light Affinity Club We're not doing anything annoying! Stop by.
First Floor Courtyard
NEXT, I'LL TAKE THIS COIN AND...
BIG SISTER!!
YOU?!
WHA?!
Hug
I love you♥
Sniff
...THE ONE WHO APPEARED SUDDENLY AND TRIED TO KILL FAY!
UH-HUH.
ISN'T THAT THE KID WHO--
whisper
whisper

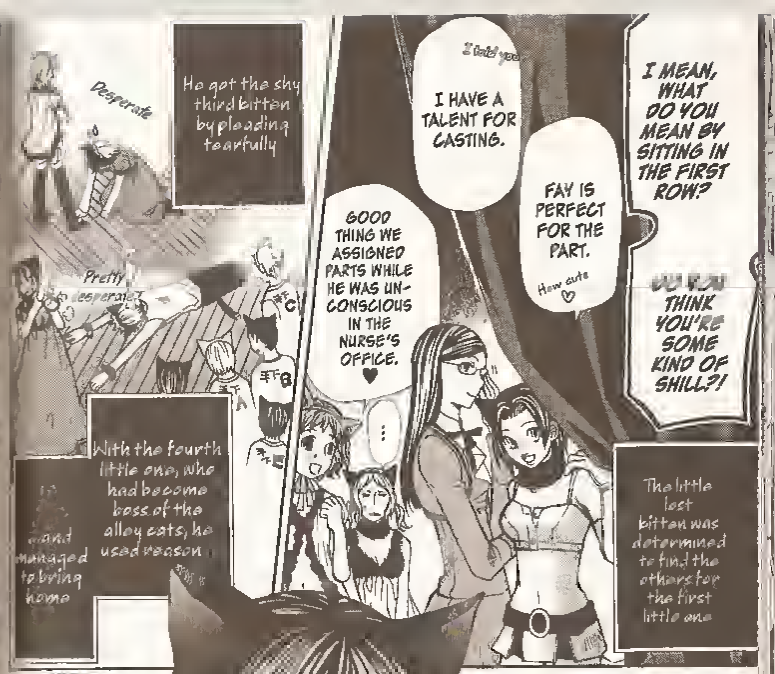

?!
MAKE CERTAIN. YOU HAVE TO PROTECT HER.
I REALLY HATE YOU, BUT YOU'RE STRONG.
PLEASE.
NO! IS HE A BOY?
OH, LOOK AT THIS KID WITH CAT EARS. SO CUTE.
IT'S REALLY GOOD.
HAVE SOME TEA, BIG SISTER.
.....
AL-BOY AND RAHZEL I UNDER-STAND...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
...BUT EVEN THE WARRANT OFFICER HAS MET THIS ALZEID?

YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE GARDENING CLUB WHO'S OBSESSED WITH MAIDS WHO WEAR GLASSES.
!!
THIS KID I KNOW CAME TO SEE ME AND--
WELL...
!!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HE'LL BE GOOD FOR MAKING MONEY.
SUCH A CUTE CHILD...
HEY, YOU ...
DON'T LET RAHZEL OUT OF YOUR SIGHT.
GO FORTH AND PLATTER, YOUNG KITTEN!!
OKAY!

I SHALL BRING THEM BACK.
Another little lost kitten arrives at the house...
...where the first little one is living... It also after the other kittens left.
After losing their keeper, the four little kittens got separated.
WHA HA HA. YOU'RE SO CUTE, FAY!!
SAY SOMETHING, MEOW!
HE'S A NEW BREED.
HEY, SHUT UP, AUDIENCE!!
AND WHAT DOES HE MEAN...
WELL, I HAVE TO GO NOW, BUT YOU TWO CAN STAY AND ENJOY YOURSELVES A LITTLE LONGER.
I think there will be tables opening up too.
I MEAN, DROP TONS OF MONEY, OKAY?
SAY WHAT YOU MEAN.
IT'S TIME FOR THE CAST TO HEAD TO THE GYM.
IS IT THAT LATE ALREADY?
...BE SURE TO PROTECT HER?
The fourth little one blamed himself.
The third little one could not move.
The second little one could not believe it
OUR LIBERTY AND FREEDOM DURING THE COMING YEAR DEPENDS ON THIS!!
And the first little one could only watch it all.
THE PLAY STARTS AT ONE O'CLOCK, SO BE SURE TO COME.
IT COSTS 100 YEN!
YOU'RE CHARGING FOR THAT TOO!!

IT IS NOT!!
BESIDES, I'M STILL WEAR- UNDERWEAR UNDER-NEATH!!
...YOU NEVER THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE SO HABIT-FORMING.
...AND THE UNUSUALLY SILKY FEELING OF LACE AND SATIN UNDERWEAR AGAINST YOUR SKIN...
...THE STOCKINGS CLINGING TO YOUR LEGS...
THE TIGHT GRIP OF THE CORSET HUGGING YOUR WAIST...
THAT WASN'T IN THE SCRIPT, RAHZEL!!
Ahh-haha
あはは
はははははは
hahahaha!

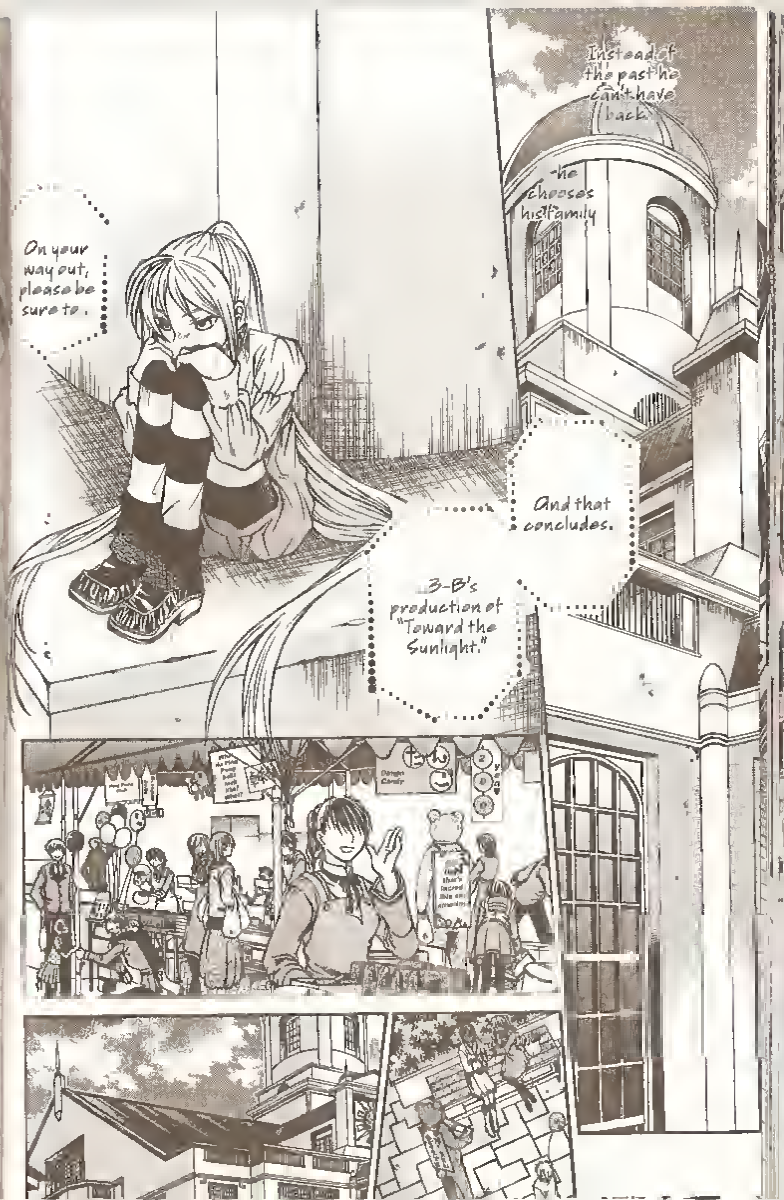

The place that the second kitten is searching for doesn't exist
Kittens?
Meow!
But she now has many other kittens under her wing.
And so, the two finally find the keeper after a long journey.
ANYWAY, IF YOU FIND THE KEEPER, YOU'LL GO BACK HOME, RIGHT?
SO I'LL LOOK FOR THE KEEPER WITH YOU!!
Hahaha
はははは
GOOD GOING!!
WHOA!! FAY'S BACK IN THE PLAY.
hahaha!
はは


Desperate
He got the shy third kitten by pleading tearfully
Pretty desperate
With the fourth little one, who had become boss of the alley cats, he used reason and managed to bring home
I told you
I HAVE A TALENT FOR CASTING.
FAY IS PERFECT FOR THE PART.
How cute ♥
GOOD THING WE ASSIGNED PARTS WHILE HE WAS UN-CONSCIOUS IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE. ♥
I MEAN, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SITTING IN THE FIRST ROW?
YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE SOME KIND OF SHILL?!
The little lost kitten was determined to find the others for the first little one

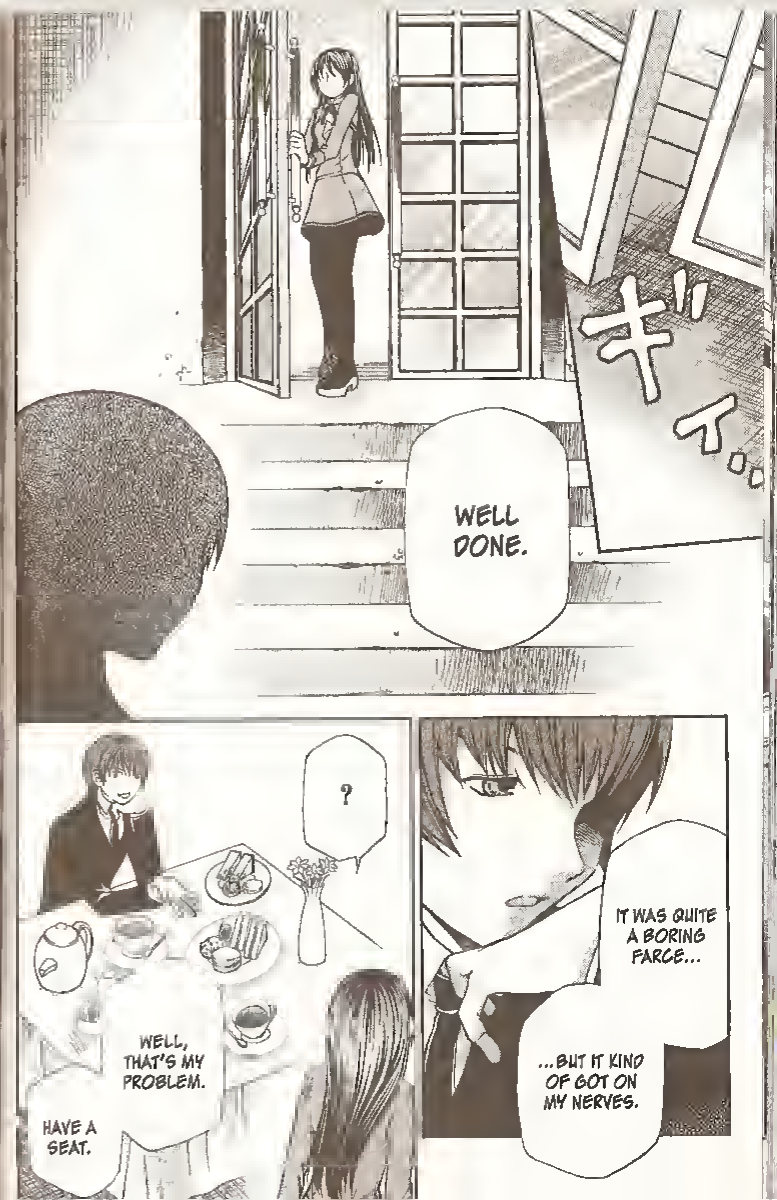
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOUR CUTE OUTFIT IS ENOUGH OF A JOKE FOR ME.
ME?
BRING ME BACK?
And now there's only one missing.
The second one, who went to look for the keeper

The story takes a twists and turns...
...and finally comes to the grand finale.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
SHE DOESN'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.
Shush!!
IT'S A BIG LIE!! AN ILLUSION!!
OUR KEEPER WOULD NEVER FORGET US!!
IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU.
LEAVE ME ALONE!! NOW!!
BUT...
OH, THERE'S FATHER!
?
HUH?

CHEERS!!
TO VICTORY!
D.D.D
SLURP
IT'LL BE THE BEST YEAR EVER.
THE SWEET TASTE OF VICTORY.
OH, MY.
ROOM O'S LOOK OF DEFEAT WAS CLASSIC!
I'M NOT SURE ACTUALLY...
...BUT HE DID ASK ME TO.
WHAT'S THE MATTER WARRANT OFFICER?
I DON'T SEE RAHZEL ANYWHERE.
KEEP AN EYE ON HER? WHY?
WHAT SHOULD I DO? BA-ROQUEHEAT ASKED ME TO KEEP AN EYE ON HER.


Instead of the past he can't have back,
-he chooses his[]family
On your way out, please be sure to.
And that concludes.
3-B's production of "Toward the Sunlight."

IF I SAY THAT I CAME TO SEE YOU...
...WOULD IT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
SO, KIARA, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
IS THIS IN RETURN FOR OUR LAST TEA PARTY?
YOU REALLY HAVE NOTHING TO DO, DO YOU?
I'M JUST BENEVOLENT IN SPIRIT AND WITH MY WALLET.
UNLIKE YOU.
HOW NICE.
IT DOES MAKE ME HAPPY.
OF COURSE THERE IS.
PROVIDED THERE'S NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE.
THERE'S A PARALYTIC DRUG IN YOUR TEA TOO.
SO THAT'S WHY IT TASTED BITTER.
I LIKE TO TAKE MY TIME WHEN I MOLEST A GIRL.
THAT'S IN SUCH BAD TASTE.
A REAL VILLAIN WOULD HAVE USED SOMETHING THAT WORKS IMMEDIATELY.


ギィ...
WELL DONE.
?
WELL, THAT'S MY PROBLEM.
HAVE A SEAT.
IT WAS QUITE A BORING FARCE...
...BUT IT KIND OF GOT ON MY NERVES.

THE SAD CHARACTERS DIE TOGETHER THEN LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER?
NO MATTER WHAT THE PRICE.
NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE TO DO!!
I WOULD GET HER BACK NO MATTER WHAT.
I WOULD NEVER GIVE UP.
That's right.
KIARA, YOU'RE LIKE THE CHARACTER WHO SITS IN A DARK CORNER AND PULLS THE LEGS OFF A PINNED CENTIPEDE ONE BY ONE WITH A NIIGE GRIN ON HIS FACE.
WHAT KIND OF A CHARAC-TER IS THAT?
I understand
Correct answer
A Weirdo
YOU SHOULD HAVE COME BEFORE THE PLAY.
YOU WOULD HAVE GOTTEN CAT-EARED SERVICE.
I DON'T LIKE NOISY PLACES.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF THOSE PEOPLE COULD ALSO HAVE A HAPPY ENDING LIKE THE PLAY.
THERE'S PROBABLY A FAMILY THAT THE STORY WAS BASED ON.
THE STORY THAT YOU CALLED A FARCE ACTUALLY ENDS WHERE THE FOUR KITTENS A SEPARATED.
HAPPY ENDING?
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
MY BODY FEELS HEAVY...
Did I suddenly gain weight?
HUH?
YOU SEEMED TO THINK I WAS JOKING...
Wobble
DID I SAY SOME-THING--
WHAT? WHAT'S THE MAT TER?
TRANQUILIZER. ♡
...BUT I REALLY DID USE IT.

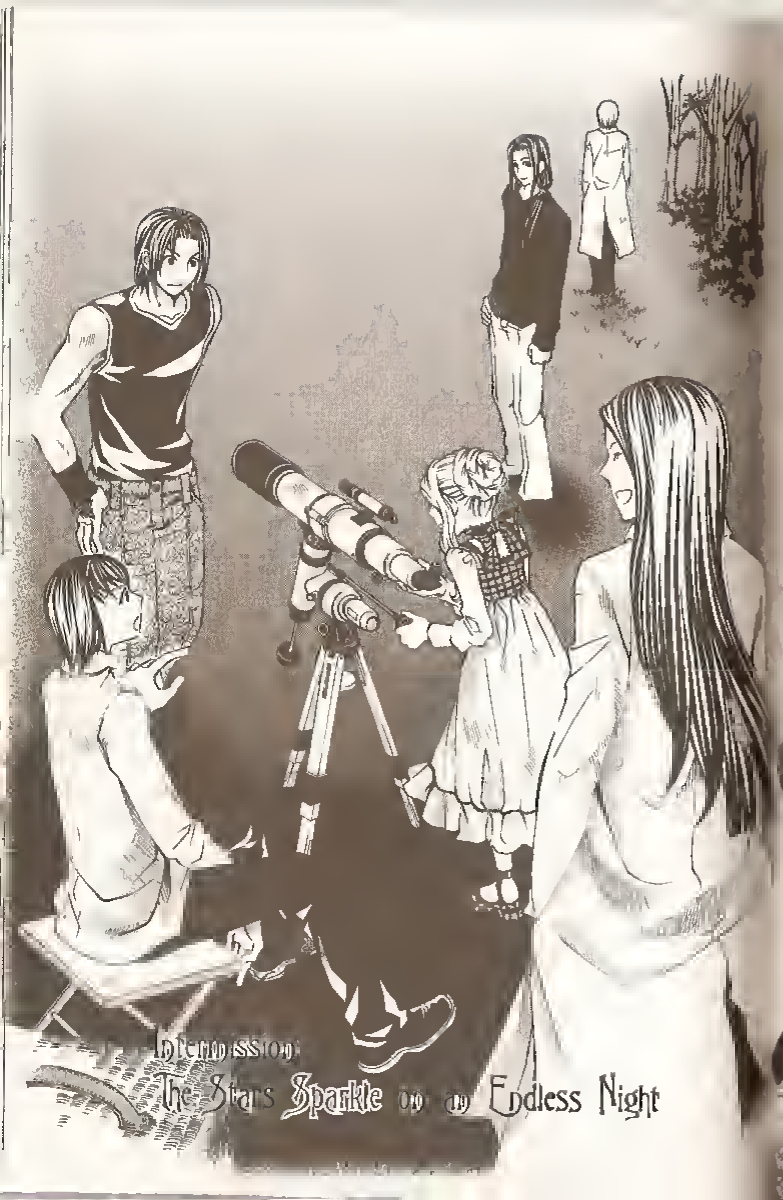
IF SO, YOU REALLY ARE STUPID.
WHAT?
NOT HERE?
PLEASE.
SHALL WE GO LOOK FOR HER?
.....
.....
I THOUGHT SHE'D GONE TO THE BATH-ROOM OR SOMETHING, BUT SHE HASN'T COME BACK.
YEAH.

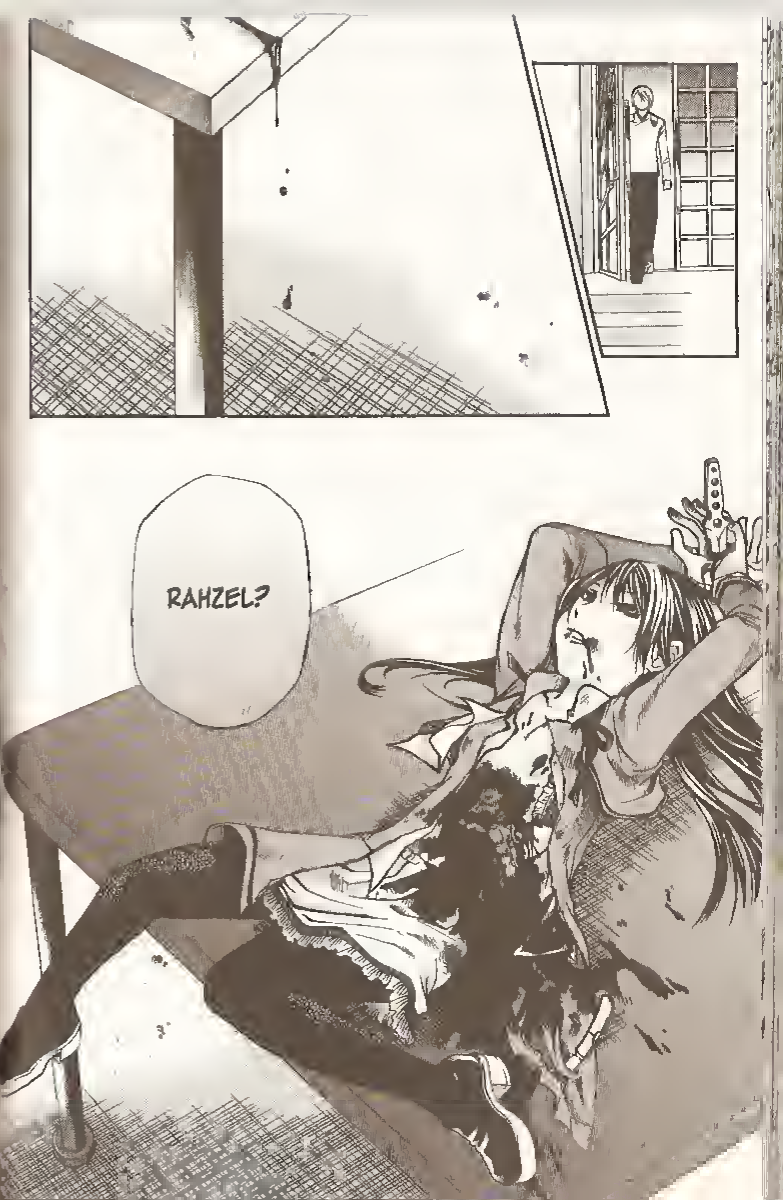
DON'T YOU DARE...
...ASK ME WHY.
I TOLD YOU I WAS YOUR ENEMY.
I TOLD YOU I WOULD HURT YOU THE NEXT TIME I SAW YOU.
AND YET YOU ATE AND DRANK THE THINGS I GAVE YOU WITHOUT SUSPICION.
DID YOU THINK I WAS JOKING AROUND?
DID YOU FEEL AN AFFECTION FOR ME AFTER SEEING ME A FEW TIMES?

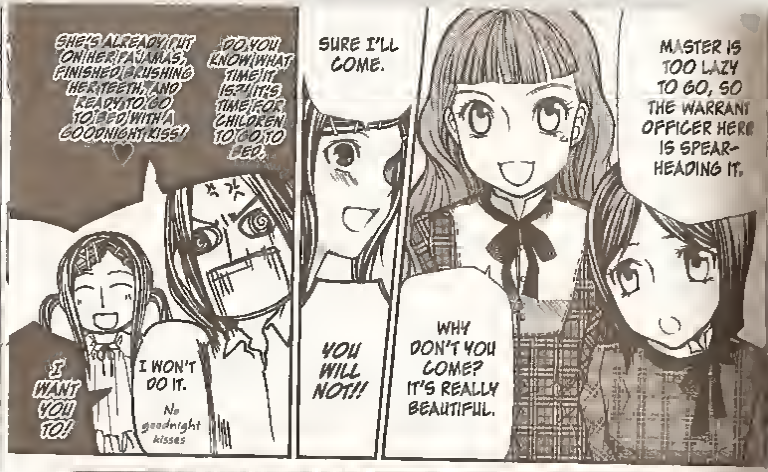
Haah...
WHAT WAS IT..."THE CHARACTER WHO SITS IN A DARK CORNER, PULLING THE LEGS OFF A PINNED CENTIPEDE ONE BY ONE ..
...WITH A HUGE GRIN ON HIS FACE"?
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WOULDN'T MIND DOING THAT.
EVEN WHEN YOUR HANDS ARE PINNED TO THE TABLE WITH A KNIFE, IT HURTS WHEN YOUR FINGERNAILS ARE RIPPED OUT.
AAAARGH... HAH...
I'M ACTUALLY BEING QUITE GENTLE.
I WON'T RIP OUT YOUR FINGERS OR ARMS.
HOW BORING.
YOU WON'T SCREAM.
I WON'T.
THAT'LL JUST EXCITE THE WEIRDO.
AND A SECOND ONE...
...A THIRD...
...NUMBER FOUR.
--!!!!
NOW, I'VE GOT TO MAKE YOU SCREAM SOMEHOW.
STRONG-WILLED, AREN'T YOU?

~~!!!!!!
slash
SO, RAHZOL, HERE'S A QUESTION
WHICH PART OF THE BODY HURTS THE MOST...
...WHEN IT'S CUT?
STOP IT. STOP IT!
THIS IS GOING TOO FAR. STOP THIS NOW!
WHAT THE~~
rip
HEY...
WHAT THE?
IT'S TINY.
D-DON'T FEEL UP MY BOOB AS YOU SAY THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU IMAGINING, YOU FILTHY GIRL?
DON'T SAY THAT!!
STOP TOUCHING MY BARE BOOBS!!
I WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO A CHILD LIKE YOU.

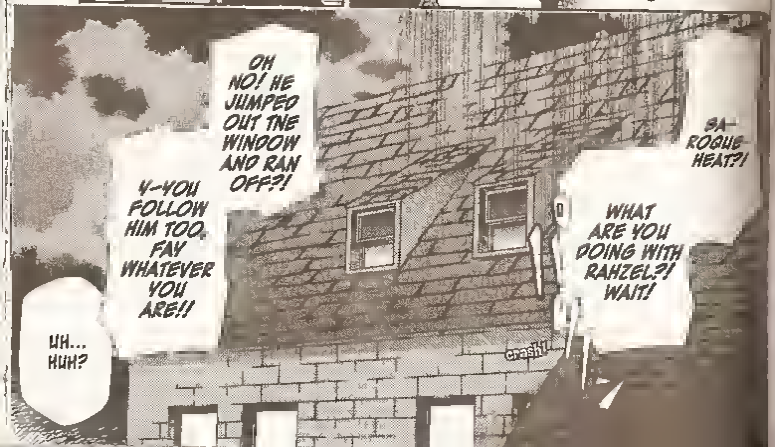
FINE. DO AS YOU WISH.
WHEN IT'S ALL OVER.
NOW, WHY DO I HAVE TO LOOK FOR THAT IDIOT?
IT'S SUCH A CHORE.
I PROBABLY COULDN'T WIN YET.
NO, I SHOULDN'T.
...AND THIS TIME I'LL BEAT HIM FOR SURE.
I HAVE TO FIND THAT BRAT...
BESIDES, THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS, NOW
DON'T WORRY, RAHZEL WON'T DIE.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.
DON'T BE SO UPSET, ALZEID.
Cat Ear Cafe
THE PAST AND THE PRESENT PROVE IT.
ISN'T THAT SO?
HUH?
I'LL KILL YOU.
WHEN IT'S ALL OVER, I'LL KILL YOU.

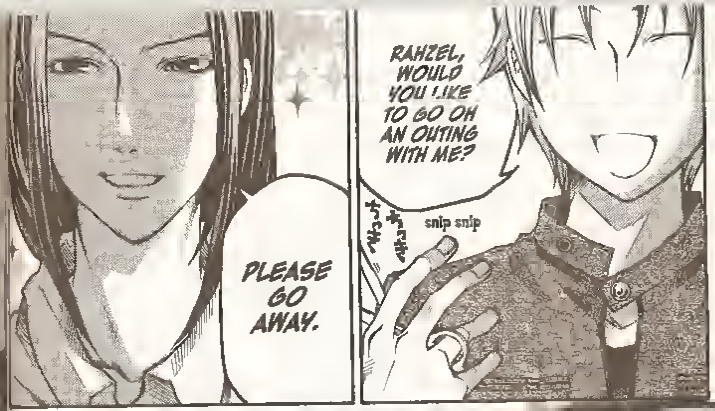

Intermission:
The Stars Sparkle on an Endless Night

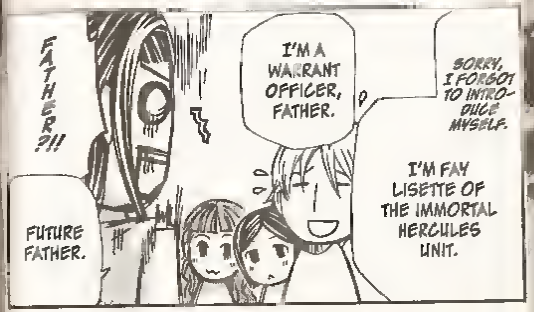

RAHZEL?

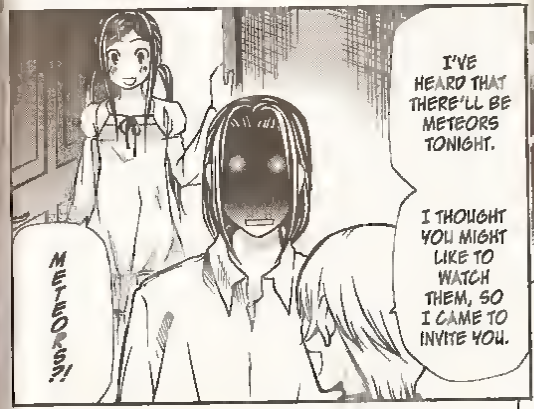

SHE'S ALREADY PUT ON HER PAJAMAS, FINISHED BRUSHING HER TEETH, AND READY TO GO TO BED WITH A GOODNIGHT KISS!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS? IT'S TIME FOR CHILDREN TO GO TO BED.
I WON'T DO IT.
No goodnight kisses
I WANT YOU TO!
SURE I'LL COME.
YOU WILL NOT!!
MASTER IS TOO LAZY TO GO, SO THE WARRANT OFFICER HERE IS SPEARHEADING IT.
WHY DON'T YOU COME? IT'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL.

grab
?!
RRG...
THEN YOU'LL GO WITH ME, AND NOT WITH THAT GUY.
WHAAA? BUT I WANT TO GO.
ANYWAY, THE ANSWER IS NO. PLEASE LEAVE


OH NO! HE JUMPED OUT THE WINDOW AND RAN OFF?!
Y-YOU FOLLOW HIM TOO. FAY WHATEVER YOU ARE!!
UH... HUH?
crash!!
BA-ROGUE HEAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH RAHZEL?! WAIT!

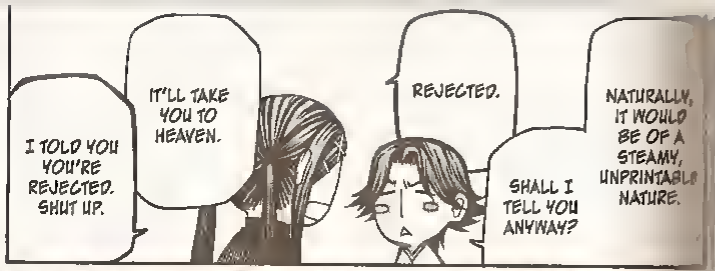

PLEASE GO AWAY.
RAHZEL, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON AN OUTING WITH ME?
snip snip


FUTURE FATHER.
FATHER?!!
I'M A WARRANT OFFICER, FATHER.
SORRY, I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I'M FAY LISETTE OF THE IMMORTAL HERCULES UNIT.


METEORS?!
I'VE HEARD THAT THERE'LL BE METEORS TONIGHT.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO WATCH THEM, SO I CAME TO INVITE YOU.

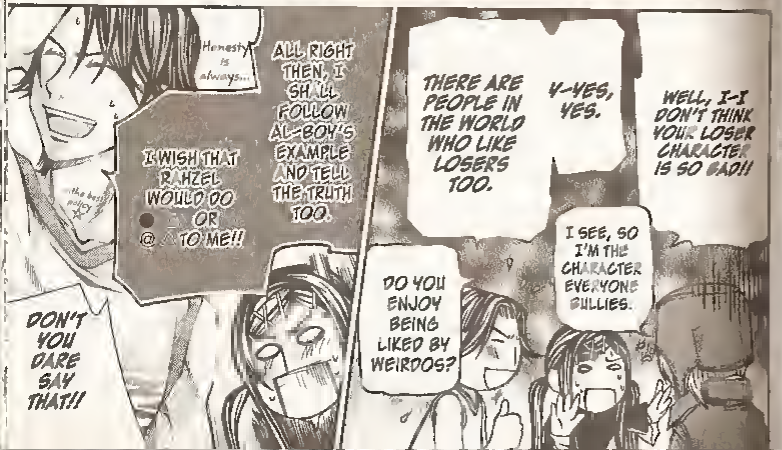
IN THIS SITUATION, SHOULDN'T RAHZEL'S CLOSE-UP BE IN THE [illegible] FRAME?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR PRECONCEPTIONS.
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
Such a dangerous child running around with scissors

ALZEID?!
You look so cozy.
LET ME JOIN YOU.
SHUT UP ALREADY!!
WHAT ELSE COULD I DO? I WANTED TO LOOK UP AT THE BEAUTIFUL NIGHT SKY WITH YOU.
IN THAT CASE, I REGRET IT.
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WHAT? YOU MEAN KIDNAPPING?
DON'T THINK THAT HONESTY WILL GET YOU OFF THE HOOK!!
WE FINALLY GOT AWAY, RAHZEL.
MMMPH!
MGGGGH NOPAAAAGH!!
NOW.
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY DECENT PEOPLE LEFT AROUND ME.
SO, NOW YOU SHOW YOUR TRUE COLORS.
How dare you?
I'M NOT TAILING YOU.
THIS IS A SIMPLE ACT OF STALKING.
WHAT? DID YOU FOLLOW ME, YOU SCOUNDREL?
Oh dear.
AAAGH! MY COAT AND SHOES!!
WHEN I WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO BRING YOU THESE.
HMPH.
HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH A THING?
I'LL WARM YOU UP!
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
LOOK AT ME!
PAJAMAS AND SLIPPERS.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S SPRING, IT'S FREEZING YOU IDIOT!!

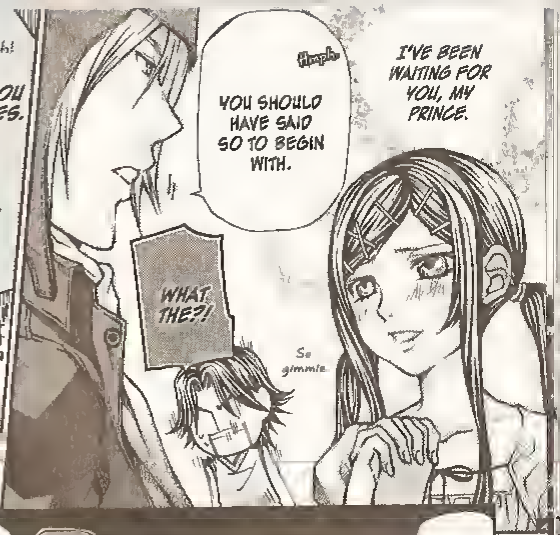

I TOLD YOU YOU'RE REJECTED. SHUT UP.
IT'LL TAKE YOU TO HEAVEN.
REJECTED.
SHALL I TELL YOU ANYWAY?
NATURALLY, IT WOULD BE OF A STEAMY, UNPRINTABLE NATURE.

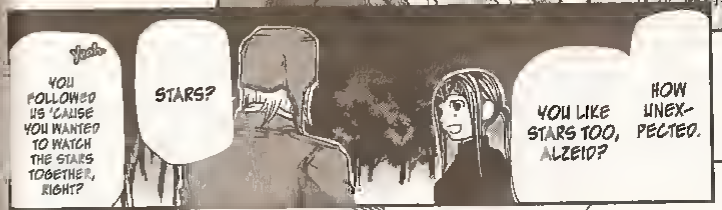
.....
ME?
A DECENT WISH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ALZEID?

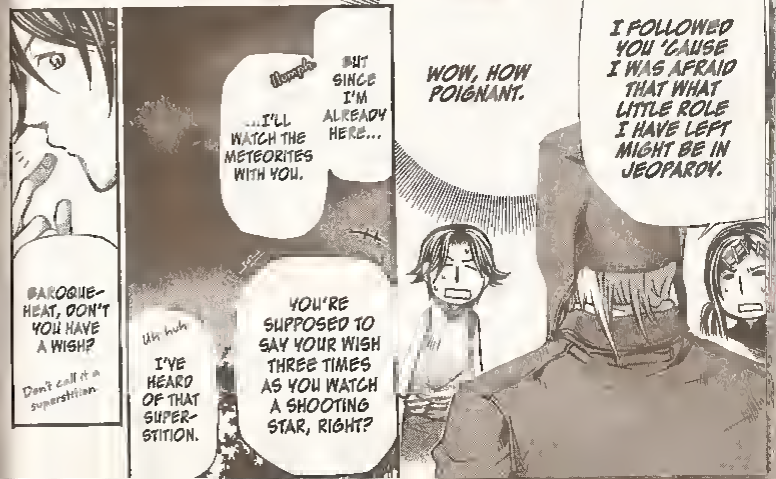
HE SAID IT!
I WANT TO GO BACK TO MY FORMER CHARACTER.


Honesty is always...
I WISH THAT RAHZEL WOULD DO ● OR @ TO ME!!
ALL RIGHT THEN, I SHALL FOLLOW AL-BOY'S EXAMPLE AND TELL THE TRUTH TOO.
DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT!!
THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO LIKE LOSERS TOO.
Y-YES, YES.
WELL, I-I DON'T THINK YOUR LOSER CHARACTER IS SO BAD!!
DO YOU ENJOY BEING LIKED BY WEIRDOS?
I SEE, SO I'M THE CHARACTER EVERYONE BULLIES.

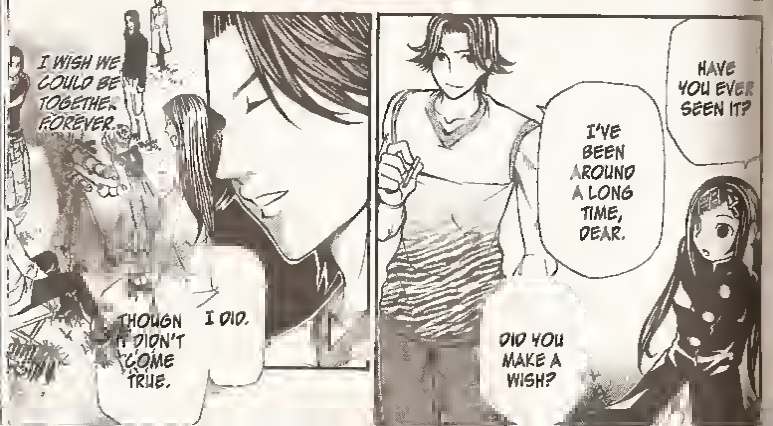
HEAT, AREN'T YOU COLD?
PUT YOUR SHIRT BACK ON.
Oh!
I'LL GIVE YOU CLOTHES.
HERE RAHZEL, WEAR THIS!!
SHE'S SO COY!!

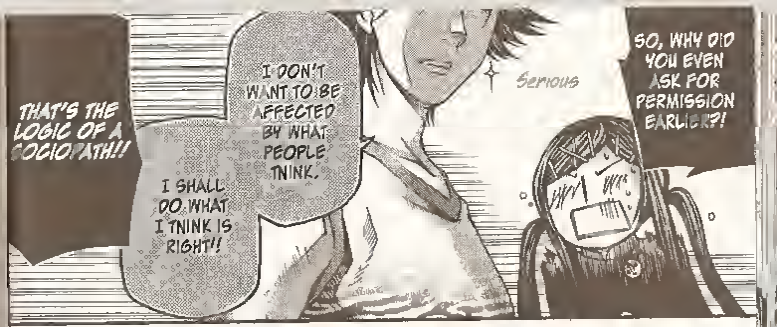

Hmph
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO TO BEGIN WITH.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, MY PRINCE.
WHAT THE?!
So gimmie.

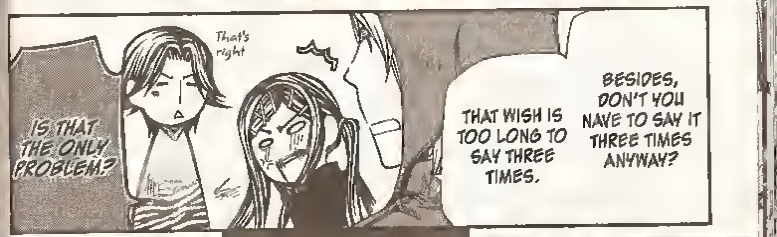

Yeah
YOU FOLLOWED US 'CAUSE YOU WANTED TO WATCH THE STARS TOGETHER, RIGHT?
STARS?
YOU LIKE STARS TOO, ALZEID?
HOW UNEXPECTED.

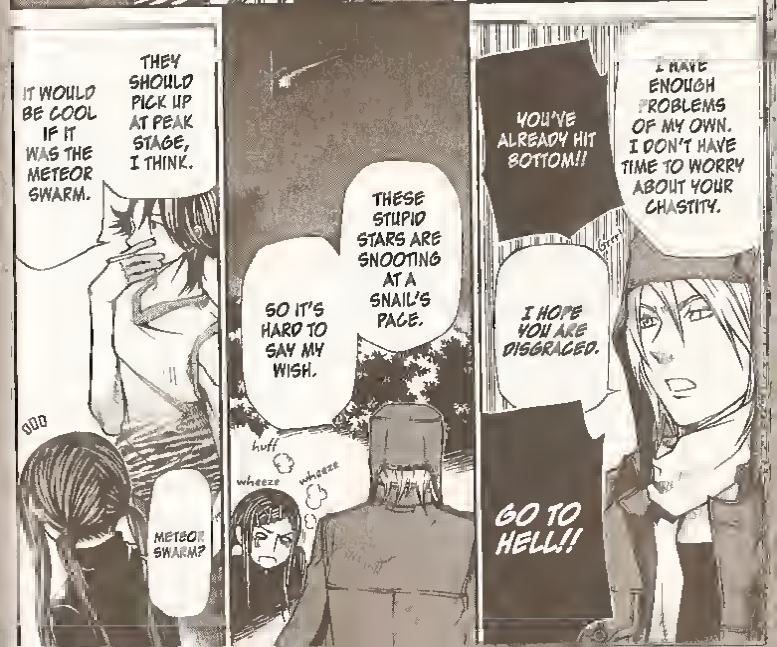

BAROQUE-HEAT, DON'T YOU HAVE A WISH?
Don't call it a superstition.
Uh huh
I'VE HEARD OF THAT SUPERSTITION.
Hmph
...I'LL WATCH THE METEORITES WITH YOU.
BUT SINCE I'M ALREADY HERE...
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY YOUR WISH THREE TIMES AS YOU WATCH A SHOOTING STAR, RIGHT?
WOW, HOW POIGNANT.
I FOLLOWED YOU 'CAUSE I WAS AFRAID THAT WHAT LITTLE ROLE I HAVE LEFT MIGHT BE IN JEOPAROV.

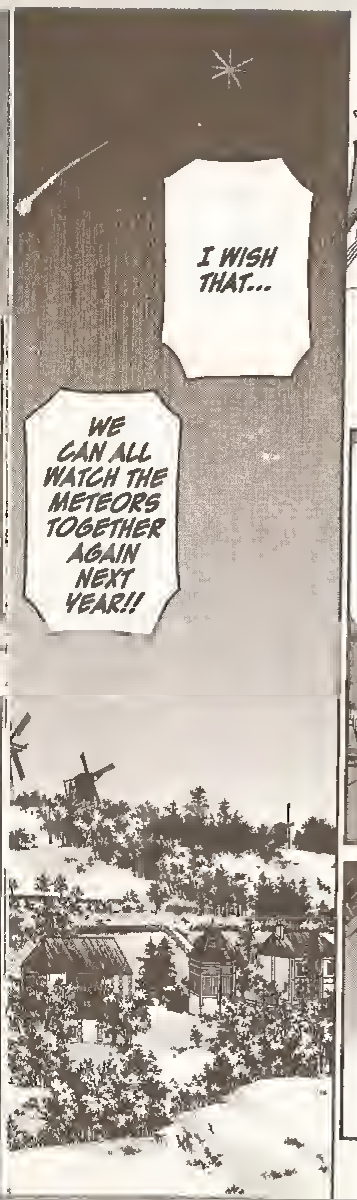
IT'S THE SHOWER WITH THE MOST SHOOTING STARS, MY DEAR.
Meteor swarm, that is...
IT'S A PHENOMENON WHERE A WHOLE BUNCH OF METEORS APPEAR AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME EVERY YEAR FROM ABOUT THE SAME DIRECTION IN THE SKY.
ISN'T IT?
WELL, RAHZEL. DO YOU KNOW WHAT A METEOR SHOWER IS?
IS THAT A QUESTION...
...OR A TEST, TEACHER?
I MERELY WISH TO ENJOY LIGHT CONVERSATION.
ABOUT HOW MANY, WOULD YOU SAY?
ABOUT 10 TIMES THE AVERAGE?
AT THE PEAK, ABOUT 500 OR EVEN A THOUSAND OR TWO PER HOUR.
IN A NORMAL METEOR SHOWER, YOU SEE ABOUT 50 AT THE MOST.
WOW. NORMAL METEOR SHOWERS SUCK!!
THE VALUE OF THIS METEOR SHOWER TOOK A NOSEDIVE QUICK.


I WISH WE COULD BE TOGETHER FOREVER.
I DID.
THOUGH I DIDN'T COME TRUE.
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN IT?
I'VE BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME, DEAR.
DID YOU MAKE A WISH?


THAT'S THE LOGIC OF A SOCIOPATH!!
I DON'T WANT TO BE AFFECTED BY WHAT PEOPLE THINK.
I SHALL DO WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT!!
Serious
SO, WHY DID YOU EVEN ASK FOR PERMISSION EARLIER?!

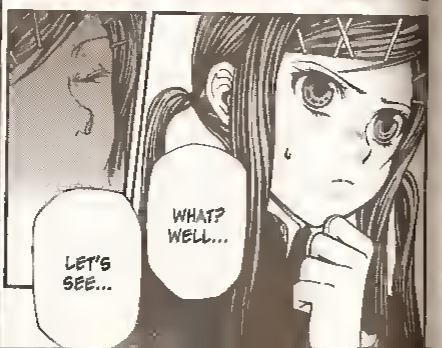

That's right
IS THAT THE ONLY PROBLEM?
THAT WISH IS TOO LONG TO SAY THREE TIMES.
BESIDES, DON'T YOU HAVE TO SAY IT THREE TIMES ANYWAY?

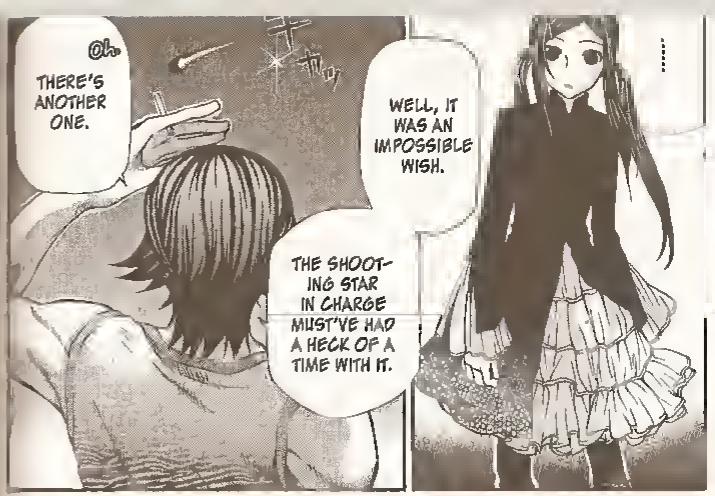

IT WOULD BE COOL IF IT WAS THE METEOR SWARM.
THEY SHOULD PICK UP AT PEAK STAGE, I THINK.
METEOR SWARM?
SO IT'S HARD TO SAY MY WISH.
THESE STUPID STARS ARE SNOOTING AT A SNAIL'S PACE.
huff
wheeze
wheeze
YOU'VE ALREADY HIT BOTTOM!!
I HOPE YOU ARE DISGRACED.
GO TO HELL!!
I HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS OF MY OWN. I DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR CHASTITY.


I WISH THAT...
WE CAN ALL WATCH THE METEORS TOGETHER AGAIN NEXT YEAR!!

WHY ARE YOU BEING A NICE GUY ALL OF A SUDDEN?!
AND THIS KIND OF WISH SHOULD BE USED TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. ☆
Pose for the camera
TEATO☆!!
LIKE, "I WISH EVERYONE IN THE WORLD WAS HAPPY."

YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING GRAND.
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF EVERYONE ELSE'S WISH, SO WHAT'S YOURS?
HMM?

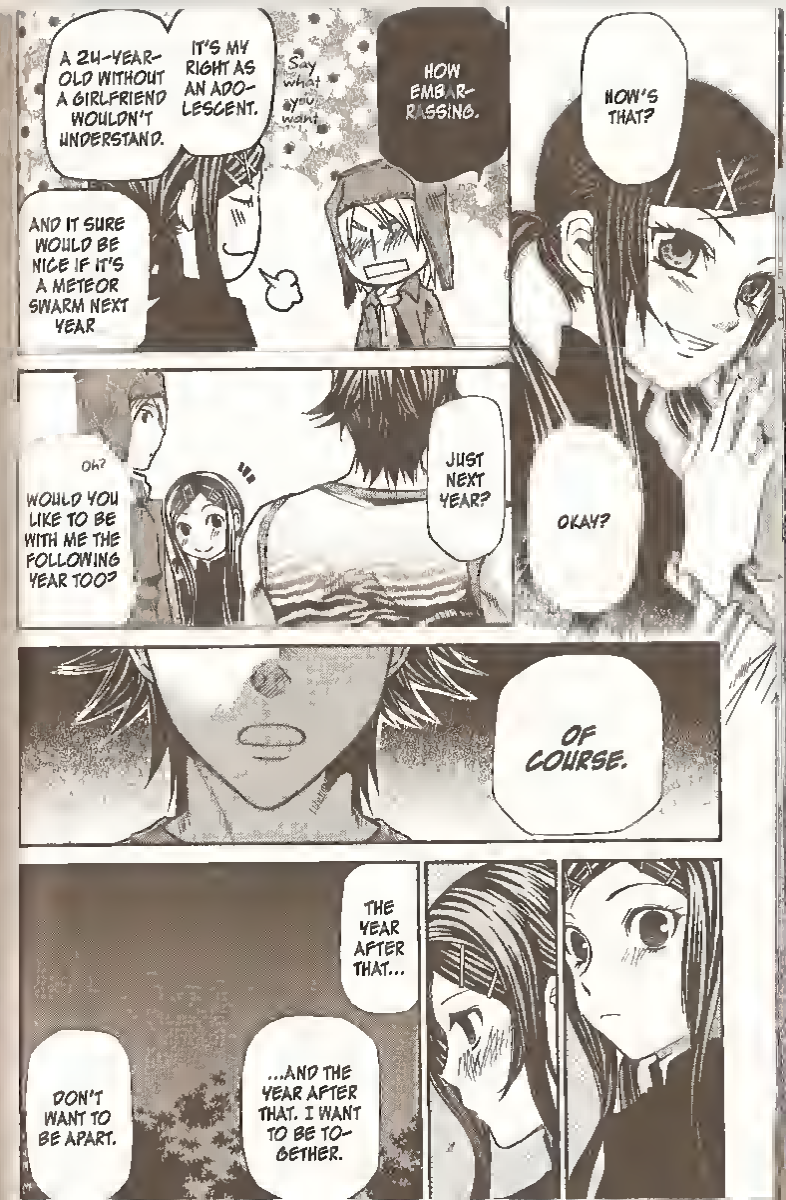

LET'S SEE...
WHAT? WELL...

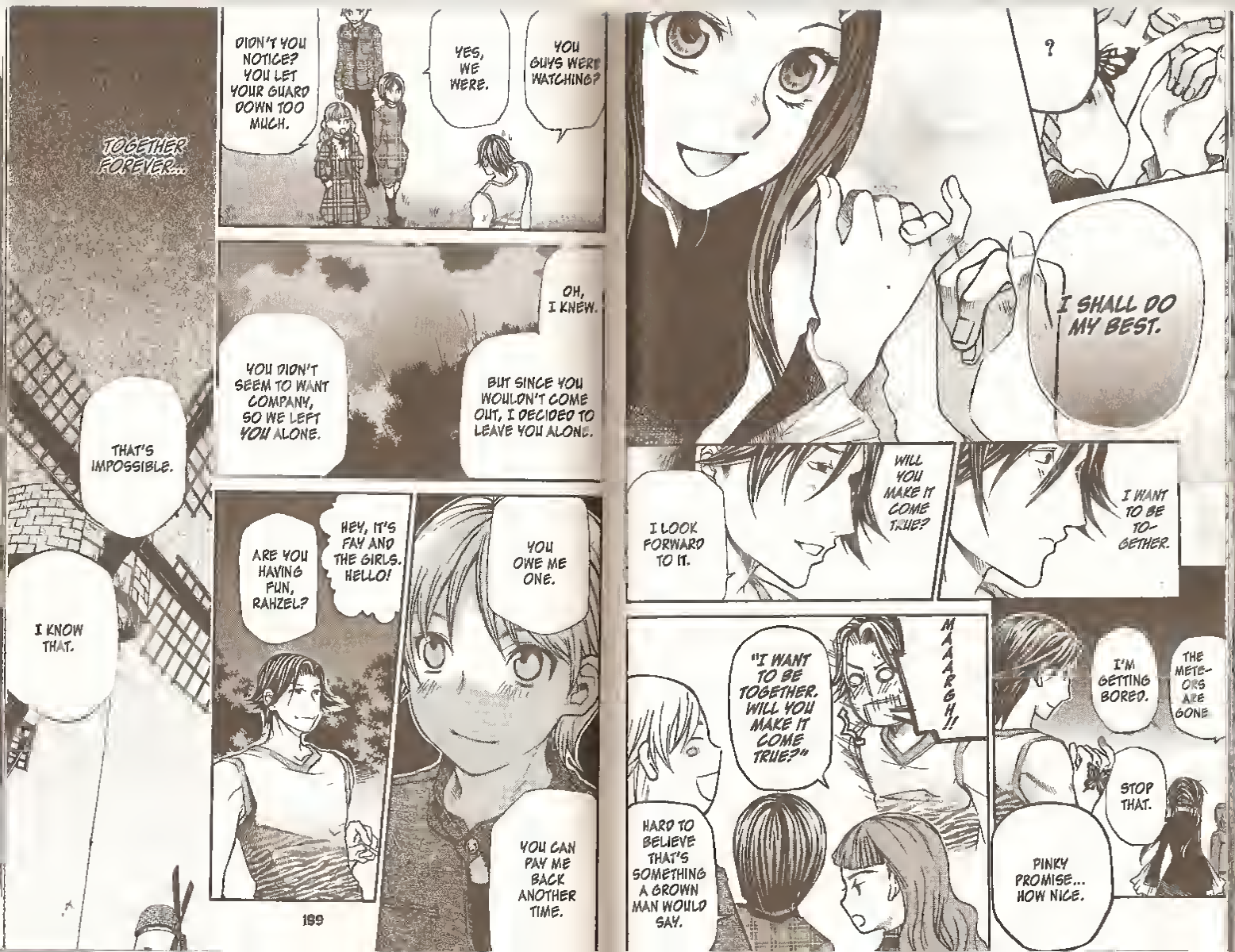

Oh.
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE.
WELL, IT WAS AN IMPOSSIBLE WISH.
THE SHOOTING STAR IN CHARGE MUST'VE HAD A HECK OF A TIME WITH IT.
.....

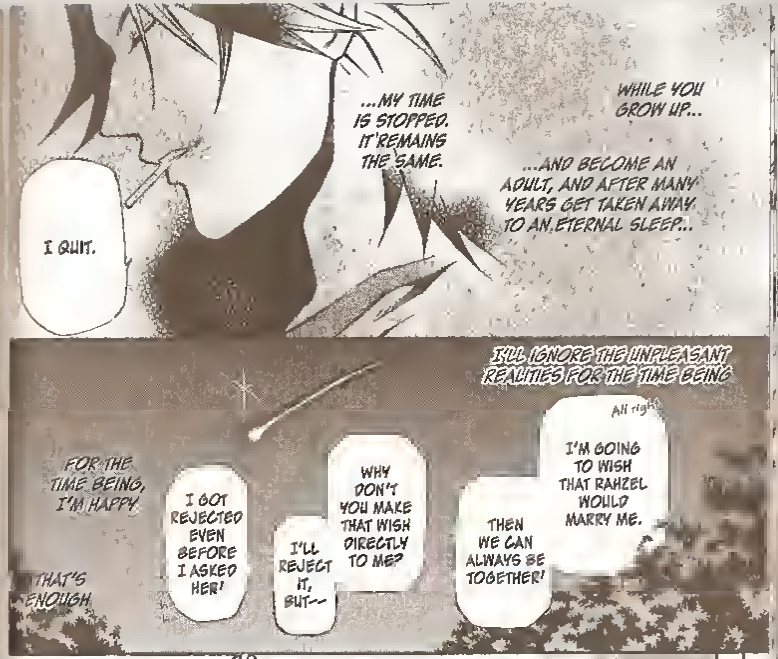
HOW SAD THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE TO BEAR OF HUMANITY'S DESIRES AS THEY END THEIR LIVES
YES...
Getting back to reality for a moment
...THAT LIGHT UP AS THEY IONIZE, DECOMPOSE, AND RECOMBINE?
TO BEGIN WITH, WHAT DO PEOPLE EXPECT FROM PIECES OF SPACE DUST...

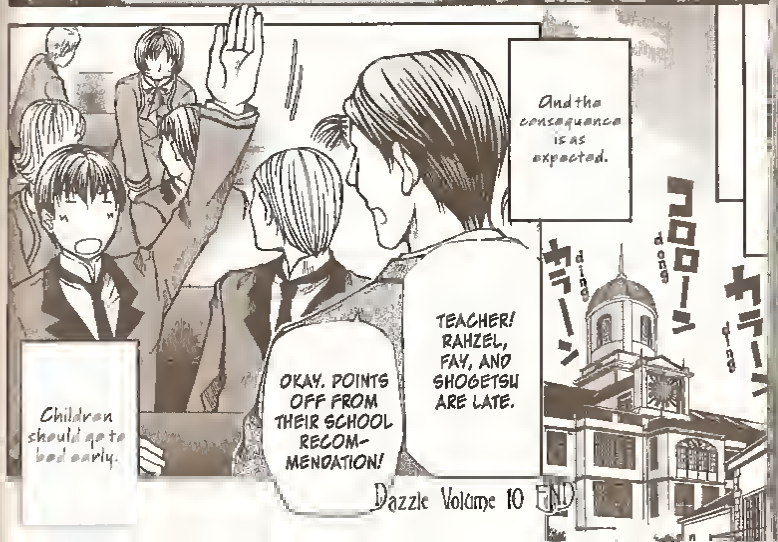
THAT'S A LIE!!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
NOT KNOWING YOURSELF IS SO SCARY.
BUT SINCE THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO USE THEM, I'M GOING TO BECOME MY FORMER COOL SELF IN NO TIME!!
NO...
I HATE TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN THE VILLAGE IDIOT CHARACTER.

OH...
I'M ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE.
WILL YOU MAKE IT COME TRUE?
COME HITHER, MY DARLING.
WHAT?
HEY, HEAT, MY DEAR...
.....
WHAT WILL WISHING TO HER DO, INSTEAD OF WISHING ON A THE STAR?
TO BEGIN WITH, THE WHOLE IDEA'S DIFFERENT.
WHY THE PIDGIN?
ME EMBARRASSED!


A 24-YEAR-OLD WITHOUT A GIRLFRIEND WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.
IT'S MY RIGHT AS AN ADOLESCENT.
Say what you want.
HOW EMBARRASSING.
AND IT SURE WOULD BE NICE IF IT'S A METEOR SWARM NEXT YEAR
HOW'S THAT?
OKAY?
OH?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE WITH ME THE FOLLOWING YEAR TOO?
JUST NEXT YEAR?
OF COURSE.
THE YEAR AFTER THAT...
...AND THE YEAR AFTER THAT. I WANT TO BE TOGETHER.
DON'T WANT TO BE APART.


TOGETHER FOREVER...
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE? YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN TOO MUCH.
YES, WE WERE.
YOU GUYS WERE WATCHING?
OH, I KNEW.
YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO WANT COMPANY, SO WE LEFT YOU ALONE.
BUT SINCE YOU WOULDN'T COME OUT, I DECIDED TO LEAVE YOU ALONE.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I KNOW THAT.
ARE YOU HAVING FUN, RAHZEL?
HEY, IT'S FAY AND THE GIRLS. HELLO!
YOU OWE ME ONE.
YOU CAN PAY ME BACK ANOTHER TIME.
?
I SHALL DO MY BEST.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
WILL YOU MAKE IT COME TRUE?
I WANT TO BE TO-GETHER.
MAAARGH!!
"I WANT TO BE TOGETHER. WILL YOU MAKE IT COME TRUE?"
HARD TO BELIEVE THAT'S SOMETHING A GROWN MAN WOULD SAY.
I'M GETTING BORED.
THE METE-ORS ARE GONE
STOP THAT.
PINKY PROMISE... HOW NICE.


I QUIT.
...MY TIME IS STOPPED. IT REMAINS THE SAME.
WHILE YOU GROW UP...
...AND BECOME AN ADULT, AND AFTER MANY YEARS GET TAKEN AWAY TO AN ETERNAL SLEEP...
I'LL IGNORE THE UNPLEASANT REALITIES FOR THE TIME BEING
FOR THE TIME BEING, I'M HAPPY.
THAT'S ENOUGH
I GOT REJECTED EVEN BEFORE I ASKED HER!
I'LL REJECT IT, BUT--
WHY DON'T YOU MAKE THAT WISH DIRECTLY TO ME?
THEN WE CAN ALWAYS BE TOGETHER!
All right
I'M GOING TO WISH THAT RAHZEL WOULD MARRY ME.


And the consequence is as expected.
TEACHER! RAHZEL, FAY, AND SHOGETSU ARE LATE.
OKAY. POINTS OFF FROM THEIR SCHOOL RECOM-MENDATION!
Children should go to bed early.
ding dong
ding dong

Dazzle Volume 10 END

"Okay, I'm gonna do the best I can! I'll look at a map of the body and stuff and really make an effort! I'm no good at grotesque stuff, but I'll go at it!"

"Don't you just want to use mosaics and leave it at that? Why don't you?"

"I'm gonna do it!"

"Well, I'm not really looking for a huge effort in that department."

That's the kind of exchange that took place...or not.

By the way, I'm also drawing a manga about a very tough boy in girl's clothing, so I couldn't help but feel a little uncomfortable about Fay's reaction this time. This guy's really weird. There's no reason to be embarrassed about putting on a skirt and wearing some kitten ears, you weirdo!

...Oh, dear. My sensibilities are getting a little frayed. I long for the pure and innocent child I was back then. To be precise, when I was a prefertilized egg. Super pure through and through.

Intermission: The Stars Sparkle on an Endless Night

Baroquecheat's spin out on an endless starry night. He hardly had any lines in this volu--No, never mind.

Alzeid continues his loser streak. The next volume will be incredible. He'll stoop even lower! Stay tuned!

Oh, and Rahzel is okay. She's isn't dead. (That's not a spoiler or anything.)

遠藤海成

Minari Endoh

Dazzle Volume 10 Postscript

So we're into the double digits! This time I have a ton of manuscripts that need to be retouched. About thirty pages or so. No, I'm not going to think about it too much. I'm not going to blame myself. I'm not going to fixate on reality.

Intermission: So Will You Please Hold My Hand Tonight?

Since it ran in the magazine, I've rewritten the entire story. The fact that I finished the manuscript on the subway train is a very dark spot in my history--I mean a great memory for me.

Chapter 69: The Ordinary Everyday

I like the design of the uniform. It's easy to draw. I should have used it in a series I do for that other magazine (Problematic remark).

Chapter 70: The Destroyer Cometh

To do research for this chapter, I asked a bunch of people around me, "what happened the moment you fell in love?" There was one answer that really made my heart skip: "He made me a delicious meal!" It's brilliant, but doesn't help this story at all. It's as exciting as meeting a very eligible bachelor. It's a story about how men with high-level housekeeping skills are attractive.

Chapter 71: "A Fake of A Fake"

I'm really no good at action scenes.

Chapter 72: Yet Another Sideshow

The welder--you can't really use the pencil the way I drew it. You have to take the lead out of the casing, but since that was too hard to show, I left the pencil as it was. Kids! What you see in manga is full of lies!

Chapter 73: Moonlight Shine upon This Miserable Child

I'd rather be a "number one" than an "only one." An "only one" is no match for another "only one" that's superior to it! Ranking is important!

Chapter 74: Somebody's Truth

Second wrote a diary. What an industrious person he is.

Chapter 75: The Sun Won't Rise

"Are nipples okay?!" That was the first thing out of my mouth when Mr. Editor-in-chief called. "....Nipples are okay, but I don't know about innards...."

In the next Dazzle!

Alzeid's older brother warned Baroqueheat to protect Rahzel, and Baroqueheat asked Fay to keep an eye on her, but Kiara was able to get Rahzel alone and fulfill his earlier promise that the next time they met, they'd be enemies. When Alzeid stumbles upon the gory aftermath of Rahzel's sadistic torture at Kiara's hands, can he do anything to save her life?